Correspondence 1878-1881: Sarah Orne Jewett and her Circle

by

Sarah Orne Jewett

Edited by Terry Heller
Coe College

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

Editorial Practice in Transcriptions

^ ^ : The author has inserted text.

~~abc~~ : The author has deleted text.

[ ] : Editorial comments and descriptions.

{ } : Editorial insertions in pursuit of clarity.

Jewett's periods often appear as dashes, and also often are indistinguishable from commas. Where her intentions seem clear, I have placed commas and periods; when not sure I have given the dashes or included a note.

Like many of her correspondents, Jewett is not consistent in using other punctuation, especially apostrophes. I have presented words needing apostrophes as she and her correspondents present them.

As nearly as practical, these transcriptions mirror the appearance of the manuscripts. However, I cannot guarantee they are free of errors. Readers wishing for certainty when working with these letters should consult the manuscripts.

Internet Access to this Text

The Internet Archive

and

Sarah Orne Jewett Text Project
https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/1-jewettpress/index-sojp.html

Sarah Orne Jewett's Principal Correspondents

This list includes people mentioned frequently in this volume. A more fully annotated "Key to Correspondents" appears in a separate volume and on the internet here:

https://www.sarahornejewett.org/soj/let/Corresp/1-persons.html

Most people mentioned in this volume are identified in that list.

Jewett's immediate family

Theodore Herman Jewett (1815-1878), Jewett's father.

Caroline Frances Perry (1820-1891), Jewett's mother.

Mary Rice Jewett (18 June 1847 - 28 September 1930), Jewett's older sister.

Caroline (Carrie) Augusta Jewett (1855-1897), Jewett's younger sister.

Others

Henry Mills Alden: (1836-1919), editor of *Harper's Magazine*.

Mary Elizabeth Gray Bell: (1826-1904), Jewett's aunt.

Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin: (1825-1896), an early close friend and wife of Massachusetts politician William Claflin (1818-1905).

Anna Lauren Dawes: (1851-1938) author and activist, daughter of Massachusetts politician, Henry L. Dawes.

Annie Adams Fields: (1834-1915), author and eventually Jewett's domestic partner.

Helen Williams Gilman: (1817-1904), Jewett's great aunt.

Eben Norton Horsford: (1818-1893), American scientist. Jewett became friends with all of his family.

William Dean Howells: (1837-1920), novelist, critic, editor at *Atlantic Monthly*, a mentor to Jewett.

Ella Maria Walworth Little: (b. 1849) One of Jewett's closest friends in her early years Married in 1875.

Ellen Frances Mason: (1846-1930), a lifelong friend.

Lillian May Munger: (c. 1856 - after 1906), a younger woman Jewett mentored.

James Ripley Osgood: (1836-1892), publisher at what eventually became Houghton, Mifflin, Jewett's main publisher.

Theophilus Parsons: (1797-1882), Harvard law professor and judge, who became one of Jewett's early mentors.

Cora Lee Clark Rice: (1849-1925), lifelong friend. Married in December 1872

1878

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin

South Berwick

8 Jan. 1878

My dear Mrs. Claflin

I am very glad that I can say nothing seems to stand in the way of my going to Washington.* And if it is still convenient for you to have me visit you I think I shall be ready at any time the last of

[*Page 2*]

the month. So will you tell me please by and by about it! —

I have been in Boston for a few days and Mary* and I saw Mrs. Ellis.* One day she came to town to meet us, and one day Mary was out at Newtonville. I do not know when Mrs. Ellis has

[*Page 3*]

seemed so bright and well and we had a great frolic in town, in spite of the snow storm ..... I wish so much that you could have heard one of the sermons Mr. Brooks* preached Sunday for you would have liked it. I hope I shall not have forgotten some things he said so I can tell you by and by. It was a

[*Page 4*]

wonderfully beautiful sermon.

I was at Mrs. Goddard's* [yesterday *?*] and Mrs. William Davenport* came in, and sent her love to you when she found ^that^ I was sure to see you. So here it is! Do not you think that Mrs. Goddard's parlor is a very charming place? I always find it so hard to come away, for I am very fond of her ——

Mary sends her love to you and I am always yours sincerely and affly{,} Sarah Orne Jewett.

Notes

Washington: During the presidency of Rutherford B. Hayes (1877-1881), William Claflin served in the House of Representatives from Massachusetts.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Ellis: Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Brooks: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) was rector of Trinity Church (Episcopalian) in 1878. Which sermon he preached on Sunday 6 January of that year is not yet known.

Mrs. Goddard's: Martha LeBaron Goddard (1829-1888) was the compiler, along with Harriet Waters Preston, of *Sea and Shore: A Collection of Poems* (1874). She was married to the journalist Delano Alexander Goddard (1831-1882), and they had no children.

Mrs. William Davenport: Though the name "William Davenport" was and remains fairly common, it seems likely that this would be Elizabeth Hewitt Davenport (1847-1912), wife of Mrs Claflin's brother, William Freeland Davenport (1833-1887).

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Emma Harding Claflin Ellis

1824 [L *?*] St.

Washington Feb 6th

1878

Dear Mrs. Ellis

I began a letter to you Sunday and its in my letter case now! I have been wishing to write you every day, but what can a fellow do who is having such a good time & who is on the wing from morning till night, but think of people with great affection. There isn't a minute for writing but there isn't a day I haven't wished with all my heart that you were here. I'll tell you about yesterday for its an excellent specimen of our days. Addie* and I went to the market on a lark in the morning and when I got back after a call on the way

[*Page 2*]

I found Mrs. Claflin* just starting unexpectedly for Richmond. ^ — She went down with a party for Miss Thursby's concert* and [*mark*] comes back tonight.^ I had been asked to go and declined and for a few minutes I was pretty sorry, but afterwards I was glad I ~~could~~ didn't go for I had such a good time here. Mary and Miss Cushing* and I felt very grand — you see it was Tuesday and we had to receive and we had ninety calls and entertained the nobility and gentry and behaved just as well as we could. Then we scurried off when there was a pause just after five, and went to a grand reception ^at the Lincolns*^ and spent an hour there and met ever so many people we knew. Then we came home to dinner, and Gov. Claflin had somebody to drive. Then we rigged for the President's reception and had such a good time there. I wouldn't have missed it for anything, and

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we came home in the watches of the night, and wasn't that a day!

I wished so much that you were with us one day when we went to a reception at the Carlile Pattersons at "Brentwood"* ^out in the country^ such a lovely old place where everything was in the old Southern fashion — very 'swell' indeed! and there were family portraits, and little darkies in livery, and big punch bowls and general magnificence to your heart's content — It was

so different from anything I had ever seen. And I think it must be like the way Southerners lived before the war. The house was queerly arranged and very pleasant — great wood fires and a round hall or reception room lighted from the top — with the other rooms opening from it.

Dear me. I set sail upon a long letter and here is Monroe* to mention that lunch is ready{.}

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& we have to go out calling afterward.

I must tell you how happy I am here and how charmingly kind everybody is to me. And [as *corrected*] for your father and mother! why words fail me when I think how good and how thoughtful and how lovely they are. I think I never have been happier in my life, and I have found such a dear new friend in Mary. We have such nice times together, for I share her room and it's so much pleasanter. Isn't she a nice girl! I like Miss Cushing so much, too. Addie and I are great cronies and he irreverently and kindly has bestowed the title of 'The Tomboy' upon me, so you see he doesn't quite consider me a

[*Page 5*]

society-girl yet, though I certainly feel entirely like one at times! I never supposed I should be a used-up society-girl but Mary Davenport and I both confessed to it this morning we were so sleepy. We don't hear the alarm clock anymore, and we dont know what we shall do!

It's dreadfully hard to say good by when I wish to tell you so much.

Addie & Mary and Miss Cushing all send their love and so do I. Mrs. Pollak* (that little French lady who is so fascinating) and I had a talk about you yesterday at the reception and I wish you could have heard the things she said and the way she said them — I shall take at least the second train for Newtonville* when

[*Page 6*]

{I} get back to Boston, for I shall have so much to tell you. Though I'm going to write you again if I may? Only I hope it will not be such a helter skelter letter as this. I must tell you that the pink bonnet is highly approved by my hostess — likewise the white brocade — so take the credit which I always give to you. I feel more at home in the pink bonnet than I believed possible when it first was all my own.

Good by — yours lovingly —

Sarah

Notes

Addie: Adams Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Claflin: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

Richmond ... Miss Thursby's concert: Miss Emma C. Thursby (1845-1931), a renowned soprano, gave two "Grand Farewell Concerts" in Richmond, VA on Tuesday and Wednesday February 5 and 6, before beginning a European tour. According to an ad in the Richmond *Daily Dispatch* of 29 January 1878, page 1, the Mozart Hall concert also was to include: Mr. W. T. Carleton, baritone, Miss Matilda Toedt, violin, Alfred H. Pease, pianist and composer, and George W. Colby, musical director and accompanist. See also *The Life of Emma Thursby, 1845-1931*, by Richard McCandless Gipson.

Mary and Miss Cushing: For Mary Davenport, see Emma Ellis in Key to Correspondents. In the absence of any other known "Mary Davenport" connected with the Claflin and Ellis families, it seems possible that Jewett refers to Mrs. Ellis's daughter by this name, to distinguish her from her step-grandmother. Hollis, in his notes for Jewett to Dawes of 14 May 1878, speculates that Mary Davenport is a niece to Mrs. Claflin, but no niece of that name has yet been discovered.

The identity of Miss Cushing is uncertain. Probably, she is Alice Kirke Cushing (1859-1918), daughter of Henry Kirke Cushing and Elizabeth/Betsey Maria Williams. Her brother was the famous neurosurgeon, Harvey Williams Cushing (1869-1939). Alice Cushing never married and continued living with her parents. However, Alice Cushing's parents were living at 786 Prospect Street in 1903; whether they resided at the Walnut Street address earlier has not been confirmed. Miss Cushing is described as "shy and somewhat austere, [with]... an active mind." She read widely in history and literature and became an authority on English church architecture. See also *Harvey Cushing: A Biography* (1946) by John F. Fulton.

the Lincolns ... the President's reception: Jewett's description of her day in Washington, DC, that includes attending two receptions the same evening would seem to indicate that a special event such as an inauguration was taking place, but this would not occur in 1878. In fact, the Washington social season in February and March during the Hayes administration was replete with such activities. Linda McShannock of the Minnesota Historical Society presents this account:

Thomas Corwin Donaldson, a personal friend of Hayes, noted in his memoirs a communication from the White House doorkeeper, Thomas F. Pendel, that the "receptions and parties they [the Hayeses] gave were the most expensive and costly ever given in the White House."
These social engagements are also noted in the diary entries of Lucy Scott West, cousin of Mrs. Hayes, who spent the social season of 1878 in Washington. Her diary is full of almost daily receptions, weekly State Dinners and balls in February and March of 1878. Lucy Scott described one such event on 16 February 1878 that the Japanese minister also attended:

> Thursday night I attended Secretary Evarts Reception & Mrs. Jeffrey's Ball; both most elegant entertainments but "Oh ye Gods & little fishes" what a crush. Upon my word we were half an hour getting up the steps to the dressing room (at Sec. Evarts) & down again. Every body [sic] & his wife was there & the rooms presented the strange appearance of a dense mass of human beings struggling about helplessly in the most inextricable confusion. Two thousand invitations had been issued. The house is lovely & large enough for airy[any] seasonable festivity. The library, supper room & saloon parlors were thrown open on the first floor & there were two or three lovely little apartments up stairs where you could take yr ease & sip coffee, chocolate, or tea. A great many celebrities were present among others the Japanese minister. . .

The week before, on Feb 7, 1878, Florence LeDuc wrote to her friend Minnie:

> After all I did not enjoy the President's reception. There was such a great crowd. Papa does not like crowds but must say go as soon as we have spoken to President & Mrs. Hayes. On Monday night we were invited to the Japanese Minister's – Papa, Mamma, Minnie went. I did not go.

Robert Gale in *A Sarah Orne Jewett Companion* (p. 49), says that in 1878 Jewett attended a reception hosted by Robert Todd Lincoln (1843-1926), President Abraham Lincoln's only surviving son. However, in 1878, R. T. Lincoln was practicing law in Chicago; he first moved to Washington as an adult in 1881, as President James A. Garfield's Secretary of War. Though it has not yet been confirmed that he hosted a February 1878 reception in Washington, D.C., no other Lincoln family is currently known to have given receptions in Washington at this time.

Carlile Pattersons at "Brentwood: Carlile Pollock Patterson (1816 - August 15, 1881) was the fourth superintendent of the United States Coast Survey. Wikipedia says: "Patterson married Elizabeth Pearson (daughter of Congressman Joseph Pearson of North Carolina) in 1837.... From 1861 ..., the Pattersons occupied the Brentwood Mansion, designed by Benjamin Latrobe and inherited by Patterson's wife, in Brentwood, Washington, D.C., (since demolished), and it became a social center during the administration of President Grant."

Monroe: This may be a Claflin household employee, but this is not certain.

Mrs. Pollak ...that little French lady: The identity of this person remains unknown.

Newtonville: Newtonville, MA is the home of the Claflin and Ellis families.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J.

Washington Gladden to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin Letterhead*]

SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

_____

EDITORIAL ROOMS

SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

[*End Letterhead*]

"Beyond the Toll-gate"*

Feb. 14.* 1878.

My dear Miss Jewett:

This is not a valentine. The check had gone to South Berwick before your letter arrived. The magazine has been sent to Washington. I like Barbara almost as well as you do, — one can't of course like other [folks's *so written*] children quite so well as one's own. I doubt whether the story will be as popular as some you have written, — but it ought to be.

I should have written before now to ask for another story, but I had last week a letter from Whittier* in which he said something that rather discouraged me. It was this: "I am glad to see that the author of 'Deephaven,' [one *?*] of the most charming books which has been published during the last decade,

[*Page 2*]

has a place in it." I have been somewhat troubled to decide whether I ought to encourage a young woman of whom such things are said to write any more, — whether she will not be puffed up and spoiled, if she keeps on in this way. But on the whole I've concluded to risk it, and won't you, please, send me another story, pretty soon!

Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Claflin,* with whom I once had the honor of a short but very pleasant interview.

Yours very truly

Washington Gladden.

Miss Jewett.

Notes

"Beyond the Toll-Gate": Jewett's story, featuring Barbara, first appeared in *Sunday Afternoon* (1:265-270) in March 1878, and then was collected in *Play Days*. Jewett's next publication in this magazine was "Verses," a poem, in June 1878. Her next story was "Paper Roses," in February 1879.

14: This number appears to have been written over "15."

Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents. Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, appeared in 1877.

Claflin: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Gladden, Washington, 1836-1918. 2 letters; 1897 & [n.d.]. (82).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Mary Bucklin Claflin

Oak Knoll Danvers

20 February 1878

And so you have Miss Jewett with you.* She is writing charmingly in "Sunday Afternoon."* I hope she will give us another book as good as "Deephaven."*

Notes

with you: As shown in Jewett's 6 February letter to Emma Harding Claflin Ellis, Jewett was visiting Mrs. Claflin in Washington, D.C., while Mr. Claflin was serving in the House of Representatives.

Sunday Afternoon: At the time of this letter, Whittier would have read Jewett's "A Late Supper" in *Sunday Afternoon* (1:55-64), January 1878. The March issue would include her "Beyond the Toll-Gate" (1:265-270).

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven*, appeared in 1877. Whittier praised the book in a letter to Jewett of 24 July 1877.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers. The transcription of this selection appears in John B. Pickard, *The Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* v. 3, p. 388. Notes by Terry Heller, Coe College.

Sarah Orne Jewett to James Ripley Osgood

1937 Chestnut St.

Philadelphia 20 ^March^

[*1878*]*

My dear Mr. Osgood

I want some money for something <u>very</u> particular and I should like to draw on the Deephaven bank, if you have no objection — Will you please tell me how much I could have now, though I may want more and may want less! — I don't suppose that the book has been sold much since the holidays — has it? — But I take heart in

[*Page 2*]

remembering that Mr. Ticknor* told me it did very well then. I'm going home pretty soon to begin a new one but I shall hope to see you on my way –

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

1878: The year 1878 is penciled in another hand in this position on page 1. However, the letter offers little evidence for this date, only that Jewett suggests she is at work on her second book, following her 1877 publication of *Deephaven*. In that case, she would be counting on the first Christmas holiday sales of the book to supply her "Deephaven bank." Later in 1878, she published a collection of children's stories, *Play Days*.

Like most Jewett letters, this is written on a folded sheet, the pages consisting of half-

sheets. On the back of page 2 appears this penciled text in another hand: "(Philadelphia) Sarah Orne Jewett".

In the folder with this letter is an illustration probably cut from a newspaper and pasted on another page; it shows the Jewett house in South Berwick. In 1878, Jewett did not reside in this house, but in the neighboring Jewett-Eastman House, now home to the Sarah Orne Jewett Museum of Historic New England.

Kelsey Squire observes that on the reverse side of this page is the text "From a pho", and evidence of another illustration that was removed. Why this page appears with this letter is not yet known.

Mr. Ticknor: At the time of this letter, Osgood's partners at Houghton, Osgood & Company were Thomas and Benjamin Ticknor, sons of the Ticknor and Fields founder, William Ticknor (1810-1864).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Collection, item MWWC0131

Transcription by Kelsey Squire, Ohio Dominican University; edited and with notes by Terry Heller, Coe College.

William Durham Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

South Berwick April 2. 1878

My dear Sarah

I have yours of March 30 and [enclose you *so written*] Cashiers Check on Boston payable to your order for $40. as you desired.

I am glad to hear you are enjoying yourself so finely and what you have seen will doubtlefs be of advantage to you in after time. The snow is nearly gone and the roads are drying up and it looks as if we may have an early spring.

I remain

Your affte Uncle

W D Jewett

Notes

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Jewett, William Durham, 1813-1887. 1 letter; 1878. (116).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Georgina Halliburton to Sarah Orne Jewett

Brooklyn April [21, *1878 ?*]*

My dear Sarah:

Your Easter letter was so welcome{.} I am so glad you passed so happy a day. I attended my church all day. [*Two unrecognized words*] in evening. I heard Mr. [A. *?*] Brooks* on Good Friday

[*Page 2*]

which was a treat. I like his sermons so much.

I leave for home a week from Monday, with Minnie Phillips* [*unrecognized word*] [escort *?*] {.} We look forward to our journey. I hope Mr. Brooks will preach here Sunday, or the next one. You know he generally leaves Boston [after *?*] Easter. I shall be so glad if he should. Tomorrow I am going to the country [*two unrecognized words*]. I hope I may [*two unrecognized words*]. I was Godmother for Carrie [*unrecognized name*] baby. Such a pretty child.* I have a great deal to [tell *?*]. [*Three unrecognized words*] liked these.

[*Page 3*]

Remember [*two unrecognized words, a name?*] and come to see me as soon as possible [*unrecognized word*] month you know we are to at least pass a day together.

Will you tell Mary* I really have not had a chance to write but she shall have a letter when I do. I have [*one or two unrecognized words*]

[*Down lower right margin of page 3*]

Best Easter wishes for you dear

[*Left to right down top margin of page 1*]

back with redoubled [zest *?*] into my words. Dont you copy your candy! [*So this appears*.]

Hoping [*two unrecognized words*] you.

Georgie

When will Carrie be married.* I dreamed of her last night.

Notes

April 21, 1878: While the month is clear in the manuscript, the day is not. Easter, the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, was 21 April in 1878. This almost certainly is the correct year, because Halliburton asks for the marriage date of Carrie Jewett, which was in the autumn of 1878.

Brooks: Almost certainly, Halliburton refers to Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

Minnie Phillips: This person has not yet been identified.

Carrie ... pretty child: Without a last name, this Carrie is not yet identified.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Carrie ... married: Carrie Jewett married Edwin Eastman in October 1878. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Harriet Waters Preston
Fragment

South Berwick

29 April 1878

Dear Miss Preston

I am so sorry I could not see you again but the rain fell so fast Friday that I did my errands over at town and put into harbor again as soon as I could — I'm afraid the man who drove me is at present lying low with pneumonia and I'm very sorry for him! —— I came home Friday stopping in Exeter a few hours on my way to see Aunt Mary*

[*Page 2*]

and grandfather — and I reached here in the evening — I never was half so glad to get home in all my life and they had planned so many little surprises and seemed so glad to see me that I felt like crying more than once — I still feel like a guest and as if there were nothing in particular to do but I hope to get settled down soon and go on with my stories and sew up the holes in my frocks, and go riding on Sheila* of an afternoon as soon as the mud is no longer dangerous — This dreary

[*Page 3*]

weather is very good weather to get rested in —

I hope you had a good time at Danvers — and that you are satisfied with the portrait — I dont think the family are at all enthusiastic over mine. Still they dont dislike it or make any opposition to its hanging in the parlor

[*Text ends about 2/3 down the page.*

No signature.

It is not known whether this letter was sent.]

Notes

Aunt Mary: Mary Olivia Gilman Long. Also living in Exeter, NH, was Jewett's maternal grandfather, Dr. William Perry. Key to Correspondents.

Sheila: Jewett's horse.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Preston, Harriet Waters, 1836-1911, recipient. 1 letter; 1878. 1743.1 (125).

Sarah Orne Jewett to James Ripley Osgood
Fragment

South Berwick

29 April 1878

My dear Mr. Osgood

The other day Mr. Howells* suggested to me that I should put my grown-up stories together now and make a book of them. He thought it would be more likely to succeed well than

[*Breaks off. No signature.*]

Notes

Howells: William Dean Howells. Key to Correspondents. Jewett's first collection of stories for adults was *Old Friends and New* (1879).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 271.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin

South Berwick

3 May 1878

Dear Mrs. Claflin

I forgot to tell you in my last letter to Mary* that the 'Psalm-book' was here when I came home, though I told Estes and Lauriat* to send it to Washington — I shall keep it for you, for I'm sure you will not wish for anything else to pack up! —— It begins to seem like [like *repeated*] Washington weather here and I am glad of it, for it seemed dreary at first to come back to such

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very early Spring and the trees so like winter — the first week I was here it rained hard all the time and was very cold and I had the rheumatism promptly, and thought of Washington with a sigh! We have just had a little visit from my Uncle John Gilman and Aunt Helen* and she was so glad to hear about Mrs. Parker and the rest of the family* and you may imagine how much I had to tell about them and my whole delightful

[*Page 3*]

visit which seems to me an increasing pleasure. You dont know how much I enjoyed it Mrs. Claflin, or how much it has given me to think of.

I was so glad to hear of you the other day through Ellen Mason* who wrote me that she had ^just^ met you. It was very stupid in me not to ask her where she was going to stay in Washington, for I should have asked you or Mary if you would be kind enough to call on her. But though I saw her

[*Page 4*]

two or three times before she went we were always in such a hurry that I wonder I remembered anything — But as you happened to meet, it was no very great matter. I think Ellen is looking so well this spring and we did have such a good time together — by fits and snatches —

You dont know how much I wish I could see you all{ — } I have really missed you more since I have been quietly at home — for while I was going from one place to another there was not much time to think. I wish you [were *blotted*] here this minute and

[*Page 5*]

I could take you for a drive and tell you about my other visits and hear what you have been doing. I know so little about you though I dont mean to say by this that I have wondered May* didn't write. I know too well that there is no time for that in [in *repeated*] the midst of such a busy life and while entertaining so many guests.

I am looking forward to Mary's visit here with so much pleasure, and I only wish dear Mrs. Claflin that we could have a visit from you sometime this summer. Do you think it is entirely out of the question? I hope nothing

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will prevent Mrs. Ellis's* coming. Wasn't it too bad that I should have only had such a glimpse ^of^ ~~with~~ her the other day, when I had set my heart on a long afternoon talk, and had been saving up "particulars" until I could not hold another one and should have had to tell it to the first person I met! —— I thought of Miss Johnson as I came through Bradford,* and I wished she had happened to be in sight. I mean to stop ~~of~~ over a train to see her when I go to Boston again. I did like her

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so much. I wonder if she will be at York again this summer? — It is growing dark and I must leave my desk, but I must tell you first how completely I lost my heart to Mrs. Fairchild* — I have heard a great deal about her, but I feel now like asking why nobody ever told me how lovely she is! I went to a charming little dinner there one evening —

Please give my love to Gov. Claflin* and to Mary and dont forget that I am always your sincere and loving friend

Sarah O. Jewett.

[*Note on page 8 in another hand*]

Given by R. B. Claflin*

March 12, 1914

Notes

Mary: The identity of this Mary remains uncertain, but it seems likely that she is, Mary Agnes, the daughter of Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Jewett seems to call her Mary Davenport, when writing about her to people other than her mother and grandmother. Hollis, in his notes for Jewett to Dawes of 14 May 1878, speculates that Mary Davenport is a niece to Mrs. Claflin, but no niece of that name has yet been discovered. Key to Correspondents.

Estes and Lauriat: A 19th-century Boston publisher and bookstore.

Uncle John Gilman and Aunt Helen: See Mrs. Helen Williams Gilman in Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Parker and the rest of the family: In her memoir, *Under the Old Elms* (1895) Mrs. Claflin mentions, among visitors to her home, Dr. Peter Parker (1804-1888), an eminent physician and Presbyterian missionary to China, among his many accomplishments (p. 90). In 1878, he was living in Washington, DC, with his wife, Harriet Colby Webster, and their son, Peter, Jr. (b. 1859). Parker was a regent for the Smithsonian Institution. It is not certain, however, that this is the Parker family to which Jewett refers.

Ellen Mason: Key to Correspondents.

May: Perhaps Jewett meant to write "Mary"?

Mrs. Ellis: Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Johnson ...Bradford: Bradford, Massachusetts is across the Merrimack River from Haverhill, the home of the poet, John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents.

Richard Cary says: "Annie Elizabeth Johnson (1826-1894), Maine-born daughter of the Reverend Samuel and Hannah (Whittier) Johnson, was principal of Bradford Academy (now a college) from 1875 until her death. Miss Johnson was a close friend of Miss Jewett's sister Mary and her cousin Abba Fisk."

Mrs. Fairchild: Probably Elizabeth Nelson Fairchild (1845-1924), a poet and friend of Jewett.

Gov. Claflin: Mary Claflin's husband. Key to Correspondents.

R. B. Claflin: This person has not yet been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Charles Ashburton Gilman

South Berwick, Maine

14 May 1878

My dear Charley:

I hope you do not think I have forgotten I owe you for that nice letter which I received [just *corrected*] after I went to Washington — I was so glad to hear from you and I have meant to answer it a good many times but as you will imagine, I have had very little chance for writing while I was away and since I came home I have been very busy.

You do not know what splendid times I have had. All my visits

[*Page 2*]

were very pleasant, but I enjoyed so much being in Washington. There is so much to interest anybody and I was going all the time from morning until night and pretty late at night too! I was there nearly two months and I would not have missed it for anything. How much I shall enjoy telling you of my frolics when I see you which I hope will not be a great while hence. Aunt Helen* was here the other day and I told her of the plan we made to meet in Portland

[*Page 3*]

at the time of the Poultry Show. She laughed and said she hoped we would sometime. I wonder if you really went and if you had a good time?

You don't know how glad I was to get home again, and I believe home never seemed so pleasant. My horse* goes splendidly and I have had some splendid long rides after I finish writing in the afternoon. I went to work again as soon as I could and have already done a good deal of writing, though the first week I was at home it was so cold and

[*Page 4*]

damp that it played the mischief with me and I had [the *corrected*] rheumatism, which seemed very natural indeed! —

I have so much to tell about and I am not nearly talked out yet either.*

Please tell your mother how sorry I am not to have been at home when she made her visit, for all the family enjoyed it so much. Carrie has been writing Lizzie* and I suppose she told all the news. Do write soon, and with love to Lizzie and Dave, believe me your loving cousin

Sarah

Have you heard any news from Orr's Island,* and how is Miss Ballard?* Please give her my love.

Notes

Helen: Helen Williams Gilman. Key to Correspondents.

horse: An earlier transcription of this letter appears in Richard Cary, *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*. In his notes, he writes:

On the same day Miss Jewett wrote to Anna Laurens Dawes: "You don't know how much I enjoy 'Sheila' who is better than ever — and high as a kite. I began to think she had gone

back to her colthood and must be disciplined and broken anew. But I am luckily very strong and Sheila knows I mean to be captain." (Manuscript Division, Library of Congress).

Carrie: Caroline Jewett Eastman, Elizabeth J. Gilman, David Dunlap Gilman. Key to Correspondents.

Orr's Island: Orr's Island is in Maine's Casco Bay. Jewett says that American author Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel, set on Orr's Island — *The Pearl of Orr's Island* (1862) — inspired her to write about her own region. Wikipedia.

Miss Ballard: It is probable but not certain that this is Sarah J. Ballard of Brunswick, ME. She was the only surviving daughter of Sarah Ludlow Morris (1806-1847) and Rev. Edward Ballard (1806-1870), who was the rector of St. Paul's Episcopalian Church in Brunswick (1858-1870).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, Brunswick, ME, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, Series 1 (M238.1): Correspondence, 1877-1905, n.d. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

14 May 1878

Dear Anna

That note of yours was most crushing — but as it is getting near June I venture to address you again and to state that I would not disdain a letter from Washington — on the contrary nothing would please me better. Washington is a sad place to leave, for none of your friends have any time to write to you — I think it is so forlorn to be in the midst of things as I was, and then come away and be entirely shut off and cut off from knowing what becomes of everybody afterward. I wish I could see you or Mary Davenport* and ask forty questions at once! but I hope I shall see Mary before long for I have to go to Boston in about a fortnight and then I suppose she

[*Page 2*]

will be at home — I hope I don't seem like a person who scolds her friends for not writing. I know too well how many demands there are one ones time and how hard it is to keep up with ones letters — I am owing Hattie Bailey and Linda Lawrence myself, and I ought not to fail

^in^ giving Julia Stout* credit for her letters which I get often and enjoy very much — but she doesn't often speak of what goes on outside her own family —

I do wish most awfully that you were here this minute, [Anna *corrected*] Dawes! I think we should indulge in [a *corrected*] most satisfactory talk — I do want to see you ever so much — I tell you I wouldn't fall asleep while you were talking this time — Do you remember how tired and sleepy I was that night I stayed with you? I was awfully tired [the *corrected*] time I was in Philadelphia and I came home at last pretty well fagged out, and it

[*Page 3*]

was so cold and wet I had the rheumatism and was rather melancholy than otherwise — Since then however I have been very well and have done a great deal of writing. I never enjoyed it more — and just now I am taking a day or two vacation for I [worked *corrected*] both morning and afternoon the last three days of last week and of course have to pay for it. I have a story nearly ready to copy for Mr. Howells,* and I have promised Mr. Gladden one right away for Sunday Afternoon.* I should like [to *corrected]* talk over my plan for that with you — Next week or the week [after *corrected*] I am going on a little journey with my grandfather* which we planned last fall. It seems hardly decent to leave home again so soon doesn't it? — but I never would say no to the frisky young fellow — He is only

[*Page 4*]

ninety his next birthday but he seems at least fifteen years younger — I have a summons from Mr. Osgood* and I wish to see Mary Davenport and some other people so I shall stay over a day or two in Boston — I spent two nights with Mr. & Mrs. Little while I was in Boston ~~before~~ on my way home — and I had a very nice time with [Ella *corrected*]. Wallace* was very miserable it seemed to me — but I believe he is a good deal better. I think the poor fellow is very delicate ^Dont mention it!^ — I am very fond indeed of Wallace. The family were in their usual state of mind and all asked a great deal about you. You do not know how much pleasure it gives me to think over my Washington experience — It has all come true, what you told me of it — I have learned

[*Page 5*]

a very [great *corrected*] deal from my visit there, beside having had such an immense amount of pleasure. There is a great deal I could say to you if I were talking instead of writing, and if I were to go to Washington again I [should *corrected*] do some things differently perhaps.

Still there is after all less to grieve over and regret than there might have been. I would not have missed the experience for anything — It is an education, as you most truly said —

The Claflins I suppose will be at home this week or at any rate some time soon. Hatty Bailey said in her letter that she was to have a visit from Mary* of a week or two after the first of May while Mrs. Claflin was at the Parkers.* What a time of it they must have had packing up — I don't suppose

[*Page 6*]

they will rest much after they get home for they always have so many visitors. Mary has promised to make me a visit early in the summer and I do hope nothing will prevent it ——

I think I never was so glad to get home as I was this time. Sometimes ^after I have been away^ I have been very lonely and like a fish out of water for awhile, but I have been very happy — and it was delightful to have people seem so glad to see me and give me such a welcome — And here in the house they had planned so many little surprises for me and I didn't suppose they had missed me half so much — I am so glad I [*deletion*] live in a small town instead of a great one — and I mean to do everything I can to make the people here glad that [*deletion*] I do live

[*Page 7*]

here and am one of them. Of course one misses a great many things in living in such a place as Berwick but I am away a great deal — and see a different sort of life just as much as is good for me — and there are the greatest compensations — I love country life with all my heart. You dont know how much I enjoy "Sheila"* who is better than ever — and [high *corrected*] as a kite. I began to think she had gone back to her colthood and must be disciplined and broken anew — But I am luckily very strong and Sheila knows I mean to be captain — I have had some perfectly lovely rides — I wish you had been with me an afternoon or two ago when I went all alone through some lovely woods by the

[*Page 8*]

[cart-path *corrected*] and across some wide pastures and at last I came out on the river bank — at a place which I long to show you someday. The air was so fresh and still that afternoon and all the wood thrushes were singing and Sheila went poking along over the pine leaves and turf. Once I scared up a big brown rabbit and he* went leaping off for dear life as if Sheila and I were a couple of fiery dragons.

— Well goodbye my dear girl. Mary* sends lots of love to you — and will you please give my love to your mother and father — and write soon as you can to your sincere and aff. friend

Sarah O. Jewett

[*Up the left and across the top margins of page 1*]

I spent a night with the Horsfords* and enjoyed it very much {—} we talked ever so much about you, and how much we liked you! I forgot to tell you too what a nice time I had in Phila and Brooklyn. Three weeks in one and two in the other place and then I was two days in Springfield and six in Boston. I have been at home a little over two weeks.

Notes

Mary Davenport: C. Carroll Hollis believes this probably was the niece of Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

Hattie Bailey ... Linda Lawrence ... Julia Stout: These people remain unidentified and It is possible that Julia Stout is Juliett Louisa "Julia" Stout Conklin (1853-1948), author of *The Young People's History of Indiana.*

story ... Mr. Howells: William Dean Howells, editor of *Atlantic Monthly*; Key to Correspondents. Which story Jewett is copying for Howells is not certain. She did not publish a new story in *Atlantic* until more than a year after this letter, "A Bit of Shore Life" in August of 1879. In the meanwhile, two pieces probably by Jewett appeared anonymously in the "Contributor's Club" column of *Atlantic*: "Th. Bentzon" (December 1878) and "Domestic Touches in Fiction" (March 1879).

Mr. Gladden ... Sunday Afternoon: Wikipedia says: "Washington Gladden (February 11, 1836 - July 2, 1918) was a leading American Congregational pastor and early leader in the Social Gospel movement. He was a leading member of the Progressive Movement, serving for two years as a member of the Columbus, Ohio city council and campaigning against Boss Tweed as religious editor of the New York Independent. Gladden was probably the first leading U.S. religious figure to support unionization of the workforce; he also opposed racial segregation. He was a prolific writer of hundreds of poems, hymns, articles, editorials, and books.... In 1875, Gladden became pastor of the North Congregational Church in Springfield, MA for seven years. During this pastorate, Gladden also worked as editor of *Sunday Afternoon* (1878-1880). *Sunday Afternoon* described itself as "A Monthly Magazine for the Household."

Jewett did not publish a story in *Sunday Afternoon* after this letter until "Paper Roses" appeared in February 1879. However, her poem, "Verses," appeared there in June 1878.

Mr. Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. & Mrs. Little ... Wallace: The Littles are Ella Walworth and George Britton Little. Wallace Lincoln Pierce was the husband of Mrs. Walworth's sister, Stella. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Claflin was at the Parkers: In her memoir, *Under the Old Elms* (1895) Mrs. Claflin mentions, among visitors to her home, Dr. Peter Parker (1804-1888), an eminent physician and Presbyterian missionary to China, among his many accomplishments (p. 90). However, it is not clear that he is one of the Parkers to whom Jewett refers.

he: Jewett wrote both "it" and "he," one over the other. Her final intention is not clear.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Horsefords: The family of Eben Horsford. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*"* *Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Harriet Elizabeth Prescott Spofford* Fragment

South Berwick

15 May 1878

My dear Harriet

I was delighted to get your letter and to hear about the birthday, and the [*unrecognized word*] and your getting home — Sometimes*

Notes

Spofford: Houghton Library archivists believe the recipient probably was Spofford. That her birthday was 3 April presents some supporting evidence. There are no other known correspondents named Harriet with whom Jewett may have been on a first-name basis with birthdays close to 15 May, assuming of course, that Jewett refers to the recipient's birthday. However, Jewett was well acquainted with Harriet Seeger, niece of her correspondent Eliza Seeger. Key to Correspondents.

Sometimes: The letter breaks off here, and then Jewett has signed it 5 times, as if trying out her pen or perhaps different versions of her signature, though there is little difference among them. The first signature is preceded by "Yours S"; the third by "Yours sincerely"; and the fourth by what probably is "S".

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 275.

Edward Fiske Merriam to Sarah Orne Jewett

Springfield, Mass

May 16 1878

Miss Sarah O. Jewett,

Dear Madam: —

Please find herewith a check for $10.00 in payment for your "Verses,"* for which allow me to express thanks.

Be kind enough to acknowledge the check, and oblige

Yours respectfully

E. F. Merriam

Notes

"Verses": Jewett's poem appeared in *Sunday Afternoon*, June 1878.:

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 3, Item 149 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lillian May Munger

South Berwick

9 June 1878

My dear Lily

I have been away again — this time on a little journey with my grandfather and though I enjoyed it very much still I felt afraid all the time that something might happen to him — he is so old and feeble. So I was glad when I got home and the journey was safely over. And then I have been away so much that home seems the most delightful place in the world.

I have been thinking about you very often since your last letter came. I am so sorry that life

[*Page 2*]

seems hard and unsatisfactory. But believe me dear little girl, if you only 'hold on fast by God'* and keep on trying everything will come right and by and bye the clouds will break away and you will know that the sun has been shining all the time — I cant help you— it is your own praying and working and steadfast faith in God's love for you that will bring you to the place where you wish to stand. Dont forget that verse which is always a comfort to me: "God hath not tempted you above that you are able to bear, but

[*Page 3*]

with the temptation hath made a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it."* I wish you could get more help from the Bible. I know it was a long time before I felt sure that it was written to me, but now I often find a verse which comes with a strange sweet power as if it were a message (as I believe it is) from someone I love. Don't lose courage, but remember that however it seems to you God really loves you and will really help you and will really seem near to you one day — And as for your fear of being too good — I think you will by and by see that as one

[*Page 4*]

loves God more one is the more ready to serve him in any way he seems to ask. I did not laugh at you — I have been too worried and bewildered and sad myself and too much puzzled [not *corrected*] to have a great sympathy for a girl younger than I who is going through the same thing. But you will come out right dear child. You are better than you used to be — your very sorrow shows that, and your discontent with yourself proves that you are on the way to better living and greater usefulness. Write to me and tell me all you can. I think it helps one to do that — and I am so glad of your love and confidence — And

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

may we both get closer to the same true love and faithful help of our father in heaven — Yours always with much love Sarah

Notes

by God: Elsewhere, Jewett locates this verse in Psalms, but these exact words do not appear in the King James Psalms. The idea appears in Psalms 119:31-2: "Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. I will keep thy statutes." Somewhat closer to the actual words is 1 Thessalonians 5:21: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." It seems likely that Jewett is quoting from a sermon rather than from the Bible.

bear it: Jewett presents her own version of 1 Corinthians 10:13, which in the King James version reads: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers. The envelope associated with this letter is addressed to Munger at Farmington, ME.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes
Fragment

Wells Maine 7 July 78

Dear Anna

I was very glad indeed to get your letter and I am going to surprise you by answering it soon. I am the more glad to have a chance this morning because I am afraid I shall not get much time for letters during the next few weeks — I have been here by the sea for a week and have enjoyed the last two or three days immensely — Before that the weather was too frightfully hot and I felt tired and sick and beside that I had — [or *corrected*] thought I had — to keep on with my writing. It was duty that made me keep to it then, now that the weather is

[*Page 2*]

cool and a salt wind blows straight in from the sea I do it for sheer pleasure{.}*

I wish you were here this Sunday morning and we would have such a good time together, wouldn't we? I love the sea with all my heart, and I pray heaven it may never [be *corrected*] my sad fortune to have to go to live out ^of possible^ reach and sound of it. I always have a sense of its neighborhood in Berwick, and there is always the possibility of driving down for an hour or two though sometimes there are weeks together that I never do it — Carrie is here with me; and Mrs. Seeger*, and Miss

[*Page 3*]

Brown,* rather an [elderly *corrected*] woman whom I am growing to like dearly, who came on Miss Seeger's recommendation — ~~You~~ ^I^ [

knew *changed from* know] what manner of person she is at first [sight *corrected*] — good as gold; and a woman who has had a hard busy life with much care of other people. She has been a teacher of little children in one of the Boston public schools, and will not be promoted because she thinks she [knows *corrected*] the work and can do it where she is better than another might — Isn't that good? She was fairly worn out when I first saw her, and now she begins to be fresh and bright again and ten years younger at least than I thought her at first. I

[*Page 4*]

have had some very pleasant talks with her.

I must tell you what Carrie and I did yesterday. It was a very great delight to me. There is one of the [fishermen *corrected*] whom I like dearly and we got up before four oclock and went out with him about four miles to see him set and draw his trawls. I wish you had been with us — after we were a little way out from land, the sun showed it [self *corrected*] just above the water — pale red in a soft gray cloud and as we went farther and farther out, the sea was growing silver colored with pink [tops *corrected*] to every little wave. It was like a fairy story or like The

[*Page 5*]

Princess of Thule* and the voyages one may go in a fishing boat out of 'Borva' or 'Stornoway'* — I didn't think of Sheila* yesterday morning either, which was strange! I rowed most of the way out though part of the time we had the sail up to catch the little breeze and I tended that — It was a delicious morning — and it was such fun to see the trawls. We put out about half a mile of lines and waited half an hour and pulled it up and found fish of all sorts and kinds — some I never [had *corrected*] seen or heard of before — I'll tell you who our fisherman is — the man whom I call "Danny"

[*Page 6*]

in Deephaven —* He told me several summers ago about his having a pussy cat on board a schooner and I enlarged upon it at my own sweet will! It is romance about his loneliness: he has a wife and a young boy whom I like — a ~~silent~~ ^quiet^ pleasant little fellow like his father, though he's not lame and doesn't wear a red shirt, <u>as yet</u>!* He has been making me a little fishing boat with all the rigging complete which you shall see some day — and he rejoices that his father is going to take him one of these days to [Kennebunk *corrected*] to see the ship yards.* Last year

[*Page 7*]

when I was here his mother was living somewhere else and I thought always that she was dead — He seemed such a lonely little fellow and he used to go out after lobsters in the darkest nights all alone — I have grown intimate with Mrs. Hatch this year but I have known "Danny" — or George; that's his real name — for a long time —

We have found a little field of strawberries on a point of land near the sea, and we go there after we eat our suppers, and I lie in the grass and pick all I can find within arm's length. The air is deliciously [fresh *corrected*] and I feel so very much better than I did when I came down —*

I condole with

[*Page 8*]

you for the loss of your horse for two months. But aren't you glad that since it had to come it was for July rather than September and October. I can get on very well without riding now, but when it grows cooler it will break my heart if anything happens to Sheila. I ride after tea when it is cool or else put her in the phaeton or light wagon — for she goes very decently in harness now — [in *corrected*] any light carriage. Indeed I might say that she spins over the road in a way that gratifies her mistress very much — I didn't bring her here with me, for the green-headed flies are holding court — and she would soon be murdered or else murder me jumping about because they bite her. — It is so pleasant to hear what you write of John Burleigh —* I hope

[*Manuscript breaks off*]

Notes

pleasure: I have read the long space after this word to mean that Jewett meant the next sentence to begin a new paragraph.

Carrie ... Mrs. Seeger: Caroline Jewett (soon to be Mrs. Eastman). Key to Correspondents.

C. Carroll Hollis says that Mrs. Seeger probably is Harriet / Hatty Woodworth Seeger (b. 1843?), a schoolteacher and Jewett friend from Boston. If this identification is correct, then her parents were Harriet Woodworth Foot (1814-1843) and Dr. Edwin Seeger (1811-1866). It seems likely, therefore, that there is a transcription error in this letter, and that "Mrs. Seeger" should read "Miss Seeger."

Miss Brown: This "teacher of little children in one of the Boston public schools" has not been identified.

Thule: *A Princess of Thule* (1873) is a novel by Scottish author William Black (1841-1898).

'Borva' or 'Stornoway': Borva and Stornoway in the Outer Hebrides are locations in Black's *A Princess of Thule*. Wikipedia notes that Borva was the name Black gave to the island of Great Bernera.

Sheila: Jewett's first horse, named after the character in Black's novel

as yet: It is not certain that Jewett underlined these words, but there is a suggestive line beneath them.

"Danny": Part six of Jewett's first novel, *Deephaven* (1877) is entitled "Danny." However, the incident Jewett recounts here occurs in the section entitled "Cunner Fishing." C. Carroll Hollis notes that George Hatch is a character in Jewett's short story, "A Bit of Shore Life" (1879).

Kennebunk ... ship yards: Wikipedia says that Kennebunk, ME developed as a center for ship-building.

down: I have read the long space after this word to mean that Jewett meant the next sentence to begin a new paragraph.

Burleigh: In his notes Hollis says: "John H. Burleigh (1822-1877), the Maine congressman from South Berwick, had died a year earlier, and I imagine the reference here is to a son who perhaps had remained in Washington. A later reference, in the letter of September 1, 1879, indicates that young Burleigh had some personal difficulty, perhaps a drinking problem." John H. Burleigh did, indeed, have a son, John Micajah Burleigh (1854-), who graduated from Williams College in 1878 and married Lulu Dickerson in 1880, and who became a businessman in South Berwick. What Jewett was trying unsuccessfully to help him with remains unknown. See *Who's Who in New England* (1915), p. 186.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Emma Harding Claflin Ellis

[*1878*]*

Dear Mrs. Ellis

I wish to tell you how sorry I am to have missed you today. I had to go to take a Turkish bath, and I came back down after you were here. I am out of the house so little and always for things like that which the Dr. makes me do! I am going to drive

[*Page 2*]

often now however and I shall hope to get out to see you. Mrs. Rice* was out for a few minutes or she would have seen you and told you. I do wish to see you dreadfully for just think of the particulars! and I wish to see you if there never had been a particular in the world! I shall be here sometime

[*Page 3*]

longer, and I shall see you someday. I am really beginning to feel as if I were going to be myself again!

Yours always lovingly

Sarah

34 Union Park*

Thursday

Notes

Mrs. Rice: John Hamilton and Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

34 Union Park: In *Boston's South End* (2004), Anthony Mitchell Sammarco notes that Alexander Hamilton Rice was at one time a resident at 34 Union Park in Boston. Alexander Rice was the father of John Rice, who married Jewett's close friend Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Emma Harding Claflin Ellis

[*Letterhead made of initials SOJ*]

34 Union Park*

Sunday — [*1878*]

Dear Mrs. Ellis

I should certainly have gone out to see you, but the weather has been so bad that I have

been in the house most of the time until yesterday when I had some engagements

[*Page 2*]

and errands that took all my time. Mrs. Rice* and I were going on to New York on Wednesday but we had word to wait as Mr. [Losters *?*] was ill{.} I think we shall go this week sometime but probably not until Thursday at any rate —

[*Page 3*]

It was provoking to see you in the way I did, and it made me wish to have a long gossip with you all the more. I begin to think that dinner parties ought to have been prescribed earlier in my case, for I have been to several [shinners *?*] and seem to flourish in them, and

[*Page 4*]

a breakfast beside at the L. Club,* which was very nice. It has been like a fortnight in Washington.* I hope I shall see you soon & wont Mrs. Claflin & Little Mary be here before long now? With ever so much love

Sarah

Notes

34 Union Park: In *Boston's South End* (2004), Anthony Mitchell Sammarco notes that Alexander Hamilton Rice was at one time a resident at 34 Union Park in Boston. Alexander Rice was the father of John Rice, who married Jewett's close friend Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Rice: John Hamilton and Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. [*Losters ?*]: This transcription is uncertain and the person remains unidentified.

L. Club: The identity of this club, presumably in Boston, is not yet known.

fortnight in Washington: Jewett spent 2 months in Washington, DC, in the early spring of 1878 as the guest of Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin.

Mrs. Claflin & Little Mary: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin and Mrs. Ellis's daughter, Mary. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J (Ac 950).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin

Friday afternoon

[*1878*]*

Dear Mrs. Claflin

I wish to tell you that we reached home all right after a very pleasant drive. It was certainly a most beautiful evening, and we did not miss our way after all. I was a little tired but I did not get up until

[*Page 2*]

so late this morning that I must have repaired all damages! and truly wish I could take the same drive again though I should like better to be going toward your house instead of away from it — I have been writing Mary* just now and hope I have

[*Page 3*]

persuaded her to come to Boston for I tried very hard! I told her you spoke of her coming out Tuesday night, but if you should not happen to have room for another guest there, will you send me a note here and she could just as well go out on Wednesday.

I am so glad to

[*Page 2*]

have seen you again, and it was a great pleasure to meet Mr. and Mrs. Abbott,* and will you not please remember {*me*} to them if they are still with you.

Mrs. Rice* enjoyed her call very much and sends you her very kind regards.

With much love for yourself and Mary & Mrs. Ellis —*

Yours always

Sarah

Notes

1878: This letter seems to have been written from Boston at a time when Jewett could invite her sister to town for a visit. And she appears to be staying with Cora Clark Rice. On this tenuous evidence, I have grouped this letter with others of 1878.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbott: This may be Lyman and Abby Abbot. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Rice: John Hamilton and Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Mary & Mrs. Ellis: Emma Harding Claflin Ellis and her daughter, Mary. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J (Ac 950).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

S. O. Jewett*

South Berwick

Wednesday morning

Aug — 1878.

Dear Anna

I returned from Boston last night after a very pleasant little visit. Mrs. Stowe* was very nice and her daughter too, [and *?*] Margaret Bailey and her mother* were also there which was very pleasant for me — Mrs. Claflin* gave a lovely lunch party

[*Page 2*]

Monday so I stayed over until yesterday — Mary* sent her love to you and was so glad to hear about you — I went to see Mr. Houghton but he was not there for which I was sorry — Mr. Osgood* had come the day before from Europe and I missed him too —*

[*Page 3*]

I shall try and [drive *corrected*] down one day soon — and will bring your gloves and your paragraphs which you left here —* Father came home just after I did on Saturday, [feeling *correctly*] wretchedly and looking worse, so that I was worried to death at going away — and made Mary promise to telegraph me Monday morning

[*Page 4*]

early — but he is better now & I believe he and mother are going soon to the mountains. Julia came home with me.*

Give my love to Miss Lane and Miss Baker* and I hope you are growing stronger every day & I'm your loving friend —

Sarah

Notes

S. O. Jewett: C. Carroll Hollis says that this and the date were added by Dawes. He notes that this letter and Jewett to Dawes of 14 October 1878 support his belief that Dawes had seen Jewett in York, ME at about this time.

Stowe: Harriet Beecher Stowe. Key to Correspondents.

Margaret Bailey and her mother: Probably this Margaret Bailey (1849-) the daughter of the American poet, Margaret Lucy Shands Bailey (1812-1888), who along with her husband. Dr. Gameliel Bailey, (1807-1859), became acquainted with Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) when she was living in Cincinnati, OH, sharing her passion for the abolition of slavery. Dr. Bailey helped to finance and then published *Uncle Tom's Cabin* as a serial in *The National Era*.

Mrs. Claflin: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Probably refers to Mary Ellis, daughter of Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Houghton ... Mr. Osgood: Henry Oscar Houghton and James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

Mary ... Julia: For Mary Rice Jewett see Key to Correspondents. It is possible that Julia is Juliett Louisa "Julia" Stout Conklin (1853-1948), author of *The Young People's History of Indiana.*

Miss Lane and Miss Baker: Jewett refers to the American landscape and genre painter, Susan Minot Lane (1832-1893) and American historian, Charlotte Alice Baker (1833-1909). Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin

South Berwick

17 Sept 1878

My dear Mrs. Claflin

I have begun two letters but I had bad luck about finishing them! Since I came home I have been on the fly and the days have gone so fast, but there has not been a day when I have ~~el~~ not thought of you and of what a lovely little visit I had last week. You dont know how much I enjoyed it.

[*Page 2*]

or how much I thank you for giving me so much pleasure. Both the guest chambers have been filled ever since I came, and there has been a good deal going on in a quiet way. And to my horror they began sending the proofs of my book all over again from the Riverside Press!* when I thought I was quite done with them — such bundles as came, too!

Your housekeeper now [*unrecognized word*] bear off my honors

[*Page 3*]

with great dignity and renown. Father and Mother and Uncle William and Mary* ^have^ all gone to the mountains for a little while, to the Glen* first and then across the mountains to Franconia &c. Father has been very miserable* since I came home and though he is really a great deal better he looks pale and gets tired so easily. I think this journey will do him a great deal of good. Tell Mrs. Ellis* that her message amused

[*Page 4*]

him immensely — and he wishes me to assure her that it was her going away that had broken his heart.

I have Julia Stout* here for a little visit and she seems to enjoy it very much and is delighted with the drives so I entertain her in that way to the best of my ability. We were going off for a whole days pilgrimage today, but I couldn't be gone so long (being house keeper!) I am so glad she happened to be

[*Page 5*]

so her spirits were a little low.

I am going to the Houghtons* Saturday and to the Fairchilds* Monday and after that to Newport for two or three days — I hope I shall see you when I'm at Belmont.* Please give my love to all the family. Julia sends her kindest remembrances to you and Mary.*

Always yours lovingly

Sarah —

Notes

my book from Riverside Press: Jewett refers to *Play Days* (1878).

Uncle William and Mary: William Durham Jewett and Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

the Glen: Wikipedia says: "Glen House was the name of a series of grand resorts, between 1852 and 1893, in Pinkham Notch very near Mount Washington in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, USA."

Father has been miserable: Jewett's father, Theodore Herman Jewett, died of a heart attack three days after this letter was composed, while he was at Crawford Notch, NH.

Mrs. Ellis: Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

Julia Stout: It is possible that Julia Stout is Juliett Louisa "Julia" Stout Conklin (1853-1948), author of *The Young People's History of Indiana*, but this has not been established.

Houghtons: Jewett may mean the offices of the publisher of *Play Days*, or she may mean she will be staying with the family of Henry Oscar Houghton, a director of Houghton, Osgood, her publisher. Key to Correspondents.

Fairchilds: This is probably the family of Charles and Elizabeth "Lilly" Nelson Fairchild of Boston and their children Sally (1869-1960), Gordon and Neil. The Brookline Historical (Massachusetts) Society provides this suggestive sketch of the Sally and her family:

> Her father was a wealthy stock broker and banker and her parents were frequent hosts of prominent artists and writers. She never married and often lived with her younger brother, Gordon: at St Paul's School where he ran the Upper School; in the Philippines; in Japan; and, when he returned to Boston around 1930, at his house at 391 Beacon St., Boston. After he died at sea in 1932 she moved to 241 Beacon St.
>
> She made quite an impression on some very famous people of that era. There are descriptions of her by George Bernard Shaw, Bertrand Russell, George Santayana, the Fabian leader Beatrice Webb, and the Shakespearean actress Ellen Terry. Shaw took several photographs of her and corresponded with her for many years. She also gave a young Ethel Barrymore a letter of introduction to Shaw. Here is a description from Gertrude Kittredge Eaton, in her Reminiscences Of St. Paul's School: "Mrs. Fairchild had at one time what might be called a salon, in Boston. She knew all the interesting people of the day. She was one of the first to appreciate Walt Whitman. John Singer Sargent was a great friend, and painted many pictures of Sally, who had lovely red hair. Red hair fascinated Sargent. She was an early admirer of Robert Louis Stevenson. When her husband went abroad one year, she told him to look up young Stevenson and have Sargent paint his portrait, which he did. Stevenson stayed with the Fairchilds in Boston, and Gordon remembered sitting on the foot of his bed

while Stevenson told him stories. There are many letters to the Fairchilds in the collected letters of Stevenson. "

Belmont: While there are several possibilities for this location, a more probable one is Belmont, MA, where William Dean Howells (See Key to Correspondents) resided 1877-1882.

Mary: Mary Ellis, a daughter of Emma Ellis and step-granddaughter of Mrs. Claflin. See Emma Ellis in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J.

Friday, September 20, 1878.

Death of Theodore Herman Jewett

(1815-1878)

Sarah Orne Jewett's father.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons [21 September, 1878]

South Berwick

Saturday

[*21 September 1878*]*

Dear Prof. Parsons

My dear Father died suddenly yesterday at the mountains. It is an awful blow to me. I know you will ask God to help me bear it. I do not know how I can live without him. It is so hard for us.

Yours lovingly

Sarah

Note

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1— Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave. New transcription and notes.

Lizzie B. Abbot* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Phila —

Sept 21 — 1878

My dearest Sarah —

I went to West Phila last eve & there heard ^of^ the great loss you had met with. To say I was shocked and deeply grieved does not begin to express my feelings — and oh, Piffy I cannot realize it yet — I don't know what to say nor how

[*Page 2*]

to express my sorrow & grief at such a loss.

[If *corrected*] you were not so far away I would not lose a moment in going to you — rest assured although absent you have both Will's and my heartfelt sympathies — is there any thing whatever we can do for you? — don't hesitate to let us know if we can be of service in any [way *corrected from* why] whatsoever. Although I was never with your father much

[*Page 3*]

I dearly loved him{,} his genial, hearty, affectionate [manners *corrected*] won my heart the first time I met him & he has become more dear to me ever since ~~when~~ I knew him better, so I feel just as badly as if I had known him intimately all my life. Please give my best love & [sympathies *corrected*] to your dear mother{,} Mary & Carrie in which you of course

[*Page 4*]

have a full share{.} Your Uncle William* too{,} don't forget to give the same to him for he needs affection also — how he must feel your father's death; they have been together so many years — your poor dear mother — she has been in my thoughts constantly since I heard of your affliction & then you girls; I hardly know a home where the inmates were so bound up in one another as you all

[*Page 5*]

were — I am crying bitterly whilst writing in sympathy & love for you all and also with the thought that will come of the [time *?*] no one knows how soon, when my own dearly beloved house must be entered by Death — please excuse all mistakes I hardly know how [I am *?*] writing.

Frank* desires me to give you his kindest regards & [sympathies *corrected*],

[*Page 6*]

Will joins me in best love to one & all & deepest grief for your loss.

I want to acknowledge the receipt of your letter which I have not had one moment to answer. Write me soon the particulars of [you *so it appears*] dear father's death — it was so sad that he died away from home — Again

repeating over & over what is written above believe me to be ever your own loving cousin

Lizzie B. Abbott

Notes

Abbott: William G. Abbott of Philadelphia, married Elizabeth B. Orne, a Jewett paternal relative. Other family members named in this letter are: Jewett's uncle, William Durham Jewett, and her mother Caroline and sisters, Mary and Caroline.

An envelope associated with this letter is addressed to Jewett in South Berwick, ME, cancelled in Philadelphia, PA on 21 September.

Frank: This person has not yet been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Sarah Orne Jewett, Additional Correspondence, MS Am 1743.1, Box 1, Item 1, I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Charles Fairchild* to Sarah Orne Jewett

Boston 21' Sept. 78

My dear Miss Jewett

[Your *?*] dispatch of yesterday was re-telegraphed to me —

I am heart sick at the thought of your grief — My own is quick tho' it is sixteen years since the blow came to me before Richmond* in sad letters from home.

There is nothing I can say save to assure you of my deep sympathy.

I wish I could lift the burden from you — but I can't — nor any part of it.

[*Page 2*]

We know its but for a little time the separation can be — and yet to say this seems small consolation{.}

I am very sorry for you.

Yours Sincerely

Chas. Fairchild

Sept. 21. 78

Notes

Fairchild: See Sally Fairchild in Key to Correspondents.

Richmond: Charles Fairchild apparently was in the Union Army during the Civil War, when he learned of the death of his father, Jairus Cassius Fairchild (1801- 18 July 1862).

Though this is not certain, it seems likely that Fairchild was stationed at Richmond, Kentucky, where the Union Army eventually lost the Battle of Richmond at the end of August 1862. Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Sarah Orne Jewett, Additional Correspondence, MS Am 1743.1, Box 1, Item 31, I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Mary Bucklin Claflin to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*21 September 1878*]*

My dear Sarah —

The sad news has reached me to-day — evil tidings fly forth. What can I say to you my dear girl "what can be said better than silence is". [e *?*] — We all wish we could do something but alas! there is nothing to do but bear. Mary has broken her arm

[*Page 2*]

and cannot write. Emma* is away from home, but we all love you dear Sarah. Will you express my sympathy and love and interest for all your family.

Yours always

M. B. Claflin.

Notes

1878: Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Jewett in South Berwick, cancelled in Boston on 21 September.

Emma: Claflin's step-daughter, Emma Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents. Probably, the "Mary" mentioned here is Emma Claflin's daughter (b. 1864).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Sarah Orne Jewett, Additional Correspondence, MS Am 1743.1, Box 1, Item 19, I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Charlotte Alice Baker and Susan Minot Lane to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*22 September 1878*]*

My dear dear girl.

We are here — and so full of sorrow and sympathy for you — Do not feel obliged to see us — We only wanted you to know that our hearts are with you in this saw hour, and would

assure you of our true and steadfast love for you — Words cannot

[*Page 2*]

help you. — but are all that earthly friends can do for you now —

Dear dear child may you be comforted —

We know what he was to you personally — not what he was but what he is & will be, though passed beyond the reach of your loving embrace — God comfort you.

C. A. B.

[*Up the right margin of page 2*]

& S. M. L.

Notes

1878: Almost certainly, this letter and the accompanying note were written within days after the death of Jewett's father, Theodore Herman Jewett, on 20 September 1878. See Theodore Herman Jewett in Key to Correspondents. Jewett's letter to Baker of 23 September indicates that Baker came to the funeral and that Baker probably hurriedly wrote her note at that time and left it before she departed. The handwriting in this note appears hurried.

Items in the folder with this letter include the following.

1. a printed card, with the name Miss Susan M. Lane.
   Penciled on the card above this name: Miss Sarah Jewett.
   Penciled on the card below the printed name: + C A B.
2. an envelope with this text penciled: Mifs Sarah — O. Jewett.
3. A page with the following text.

[Dear *?*] Sarah

Miss Mary Barrell wanted us to say "all that would express to you their sympathy for you" and Mrs. Dwight wished her name added.

Item 1 seems pretty clearly connected with the letter, identifying the authors who have signed the note with initials. For Lane, see Baker in Key to Correspondents.

The envelope may or may not be associated with the other items, but it seems likely it belongs with the Baker and Lane note.

The additional page is unsigned, though it probably it comes from Elizabeth Barrell, and also refers to the death of Theodore Herman Jewett, expressing sympathy on behalf of the Barrell sisters and Mrs. Dwight. For Elizabeth and Mary Barrell, Key to Correspondents. Mrs. Dwight has not yet been identified.

These manuscript materials are held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, MS Am 1743.1, Sarah Orne Jewett additional correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett, Identifier: (6) Box 1.

Theophilus Parsons to Sarah Orne Jewett

Cambridge — Sept 22. / 78

Sunday —

My dear Sarah,

Your note, received last evening, confirmed what I had read in the morning paper.

The shock of your fathers sudden death* even to me who did not know him personally, was great. What then must it have been to you into whose very life his was interwoven.

I do not bid you look to time for relief, because I know that you will presently feel your love even more distinctly than you do now; and because I hope you will look for relief beyond time.

You will find this relief as you see that

[*Page 2*]

to all who live, this life is but a brief period of preparation [for *corrected*] life; and that your father is now a living man, to [whom *corrected*] scenes of usefulness & enjoyment are opening which it is hard for us to imagine. He is at home with all that belonged to his life, and certainly with that love for you which formed so large a part of it.

You say, "how can I live without him". Would, dear Sarah, that I could help you to see what I am sure is the truth, that never in your life were you less without him. He is with you now, not to sense, but if you can resist the falsities which tell you he is dead, you will feel that he cares for you now more than he ever did, & envelops you in his love.

I am not very well & the day cannot be far which will bear me where he has

[*Page 3*]

gone. But [while *corrected*] I am here you must write to me, & let me write to you when I can.

M^rs^ Parsons & those of my daughters who are at home send you assurances of their profound sympathy, and you know dear Sarah that I am

most sincerely y's

Theophilus Parsons.

Notes

death: Jewett's father died on 20 September 1878.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Sarah Orne Jewett, Additional Correspondence, MS Am 1743.1, Box 2, Item 86, I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Charlotte Alice Baker

Monday

[*23 September 1878*]

Dear Miss Baker*

I just want to say a word to you — for I was so sorry I did not ask you to come right here to the house or to stay at the old house and get rested and make yourself comfortable. You could have done so while we were gone to the burying ground if you had not

[*Page 2*]

cared to stay later. But I know you will forgive any thoughtlessness on my part yesterday. We were all so touched by your coming to us yesterday and Mother especially and it was a great comfort to all to see you, for you were so kind and so sorry — There is so much to make me glad and proud and

[*Page 3*]

happy when I think of my dear father and we are no less together now he has gone out of my sight —

Yours affly Sarah.

Notes

1878: Almost certainly this letter was composed the Monday after Theodore Herman Jewett's death on 20 September 1878.

Baker: That this is Charlotte Alice Baker is not absolutely certain, but she is the only Jewett acquaintance named "Baker" with whom Jewett seems likely to have corresponded in the 1870s.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

An unknown Mary to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*23 September 1878*]*

Please write as soon as you feel able and [tell *?*] us the particulars —

[*Begin letterhead*]

SATURDAY

[*End letterhead*]

My dear dear Sarah

I wish I could express half what I feel for you all in this hour of sorrow — How terribly sudden it is — and here I am flat on my back unable to do a thing for you — A week ago today I fell from a horse and dislocated and fractured my left elbow — but when

[*Page 2*]

I heard of your dear fathers death it seemed to me that I must fly to you and tell you of my love and sympathy. As it is however, I can only express my feelings through this little penciled note.

Dear Sarah please know that we all love you and feel for you from the bottom of our hearts —

Give love and sympathy to your mother and sisters and believe me always your fond friend

[Mary *?*] [*unrecognized letters*]*

Notes

1878: An envelope associated with this letter is addressed to Jewett in South Berwick, ME, cancelled in Newtonville, MA, on 23 September 1878. Jewett's father, Theodore Herman Jewett, died on 20 September 1878.

Mary D: This letter's signature is ambiguous. Houghton archivists have read it as "Marg D" and named the author Margaret. The last letter of the first name has been corrected, and to me it is not clear whether it should be Mary or Marg. Mary seems more likely. The marks that follow are a mystery. I have not found a Jewett correspondent from this time that these clues would suggest, except perhaps for Mary Ellis, daughter of Jewett correspondent Emma Claflin Ellis. She would have been close enough to Sarah to have written this letter, though she only turned 14 in 1878. See Mary Bucklin Claflin to Jewett of 21 September 1878.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Sarah Orne Jewett, Additional Correspondence, MS Am 1743.1, Box 1, Item 21, I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Edwin Eastman to Abby O. Eastman

So. Berwick Monday morn.

[*September 23, 1878*]

Dear Mother,

This morning brings us back to real life again. For the past three days I have passed through the hardest, saddest experience I have ever met for it seemed as if I was doing for a father, for the doctor has been so kind and interested in us ever since we have been here, even before I became at all connected with the family. They are all pretty well this morning. Mrs. Jewett has met her affliction very bravely. You can sympathize with her, mother, for you to [*so spelled*] have had a similar; and I can realize

[*Page 2*]

your's [*so spelled*] more fully than ever before, how great it was.

And the poor girls, how I pity them, and, in my experience, I have never known a family which so worshiped their father as they did. They too have been very brave and thoughtful. With all your good opinion of them, you cannot appreciate them ^fully^ until you know them better. I have a treasure in Carrie, she is so kind and affectionate. I do not know what arrangements the family will make, but I think we shall be married pretty soon. It will be very quiet, only the family. I have not time to write more this morning but will write you again right away. with all love

from Ed.

Notes

1878: The Columbia identification page gives this date, which agrees with the content concerning the recent death of Dr. Theodore Herman Jewett on 20 September 1878. In that year, 23 September fell on a Monday.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy and annotation by Terry Heller, Coe College.

Sarah Orne Jewett to George Lothrop Lewis

Tuesday [evening *or* morning *?*]

[*24 September 1878*]*

[*Begin letterhead*]

South Berwick.

Maine.

[*End letterhead*]

Dear D[r] Lewis

I remembered two things after you were here! — My father was surgeon of the Board of [Enrolment *so spelled*] for the First District — and also he was for some time President of the State Medical Society.

I do not know (upon reflection) whether these details should fall to you or to Professor

[*Page 2*]

Chapman, but you can decide the matter.

And pray believe that I do not lay stress upon any of my suggestions, but trust entirely to your saying the right and best thing when the moment comes — my father's delightful sense of humour as we remember it, would forbid our being anxious in such a case!

In haste

yours always affectionately

S. O. Jewett

Notes

1878: Various notes have been penciled in another hand at the top of page 1, identifying Rev. Lewis and speculating about the date. "the Board of Enrolment" is underlined in pencil as well.

This letter seems fairly clearly to concern funeral arrangements for Jewett's father, Theodore Herman Jewett, who died on Friday 20 September 1878. It is highly probable that this letter was composed the following Tuesday.

Professor Chapman: Henry Leland Chapman (1845-1913) taught Latin, Rhetoric, and English Literature at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME.

The manuscript of this letter held by the Miller Library Special Collections at Colby College, Waterville, ME. JEWE.1.

Harriet Waters Preston to Sarah Orne Jewett

2395 Washington St Roxbury

Oct 3[d] 1878

Your letter has just come, dear, and I sit down with it still open in my hand to write you one word of love just as I wd speak if you were here.

How well I know what you mean when you say — "it was hard to begin writing, and it is hard to stop." And the feeling of sacred reluctance gains on one. It is growing very hard now for me to speak

[*Page 2*]

of my dear love, but to you, in your sorrow* I can still do it.

Yes — the words of praise are sweet ever so many who never praised them in life say of those who are gone away, — but they are bitter too — sweet sad, ineffectual words, like [wan *?*] flower-petals falling on the [ground *?*]. I know just how they are showering about you now, for your dear father had the privilege

[*Page 4*]

of ministering to so many whose hearts must now be pierced by their late gratitude. Do you know I cannot myself help thinking of him as a personal friend? I saw him only twice for a few minutes, but his very beautiful face seemed wholly familiar to me. I understand as if from early association the bright, brave, [humorous *?*] tender soul — I knew that we shd quickly have known each other {.} Perhaps it may yet be. Oh how can

[*Page 5*]

one think of the society of the departed without a throb of almost intolerable longing —

I can see plainly — how in some respects your loss falls much more heavily than mine. I was both awed and soothed in the beginning by the feeling that it was nature's own tranquil and gracious end to wh my dear one came — Great, sad, pagan words especially those of Marcus Aurelius* came oftenest to my mind — "Depart then

[*Page 3*]

satisfied — for he also who releases thee is satisfied" — Gently — and yet powerfully they constrained me to acquiescence.

But you must remember sometimes how even I had so many more years of the love [whi *or* like] nothing can replace, than you and then, with your mothers illness, I can see that unguessed cares will fall upon you

[*Page 4*]

and daily life will be complicated and made hard and weariful.

But after all it is good, and seems a work of Divine grace to him, that your father shd have gone at the time of his great climacteric, when decay was yet a long way off — before the leaves had begun to wither or the shadows perceptibly to lengthen — in [some still *?*] fresh, vernal semblance of early Autumn as now transfigures all the outer world.

God bless you, my love, and sustain you. I will certainly give your message to Mrs Goddard,* and write as today, when my heart is full, and that will not be seldom{.} Always yours

H W. P.

Notes

sorrow: Jewett's father, Theodore Herman Jewett died on 20 September 1878.

Aurelius: Roman emperor and stoic philosopher, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus (121-180). Preston quotes from his *Meditations* 12.36.

Goddard: Martha LeBaron Goddard (1829-1888) was the compiler, along with Harriet Waters Preston, of *Sea and Shore: A Collection of Poems* (1874).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 184. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Theophilus Parsons to Sarah Orne Jewett

Cambridge — Oct. 4. 1878

My dear Sarah,

Thanks for the kindness which in the midst of such terrible sorrows* could find time and thought [for *corrected*] me. And thanks to your Father and mine, that you were able to write me such a letter. Could I see you I should be able to say much that I cannot write.

Of nothing am I more sure than that our Father was suffering as a means of making us receptive of happiness. For there is but one true & abiding happiness. And that is the happiness of being, and of knowing that we are, His instruments in doing good. It is His infinite happiness to do infinite good. Nor can He give us any other happiness than so much of this as He is able to impart. How much that is depends

[*Page 2*]

upon ourselves. His Providence at every moment of our lives having no other end [*deletion*] than that of making us receptive of that happiness.

You say, "In that grave all my ambitions & hopes seem sometimes to be buried." I am not sorry for this; for I hope that your ambitions & hopes will rise from that grave, as he whose body you put there has risen, from natural life to spiritual life.

I am certain that this heaviest of blows would not have been permitted to fall upon you if it had not been the precise thing you needed. He who is infinitely wise knew how to make that which

was the best thing for the father whom you loved so much, the best thing for you also. ^And I will add, for those who mourn with you.^ I believe you will see this presently. When our Lord washed His disciples feet, He said, "what I do you know not now, but shall know hereafter." He is in the

[*Page 3*]

constant effort to wash us clean.

I am certain that this blow would not have fallen, unless strength could be given you if you will accept it, to gather from it eternal good, not at once, but by persistent effort to learn His will by learning whatever of the truth He puts within your reach, — and to live in [accordance *changed from* according] with it.

I make no apology for writing to you thus, as I think of you & of the calamity which has been permitted to darken you life, I could not do otherwise.

most sincerely y's

Theophilus Parsons.

Notes

sorrows: Jewett's father died on 20 September 1878.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Sarah Orne Jewett, Additional Correspondence, MS Am 1743.1, Box 2, Item 86, I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Katherine de Costa Birckhead to Sarah Orne Jewett

Newport. Oct 8th 1878.*

My dear Sally —

Thank you for yr. letter — but you must not think of answering mine. Unless you feel like talking to me — I know how hard it is — & I shall not expect it — but will write you, as you say you like to hear fr. me —

[*Page 2*]

Yes, Alice* told me all the sad story — & I am so glad you saw her — I too know well what a comforter she is — what a fearful shock — I cannot dwell on it — May strength be given you and to all ys. poor little sister — it will be pitiful indeed! How strange it seems

[*Page 3*]

[she *?*] shld have put it off till now! But — God knows best ——

Dear Sarah — I am very sure this great sorrow will be blessed to you for I see that God is very near you through it all — & what comforts like that?

If you were here

[*Page 4*]

today we wd. go [*unrecognized word*] by the sea & you wd. tell me all that is in yr. heart, & I too wd. perhaps be lifted up, & my faith be strengthened — [Yes *?*], let us pray for each other dear Sally — that we may both be "good" — but I need the asking far more than you — [Good by *?*]

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

now — & again thank you

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

for sending me that sweet

[*Up the right margin of page 2*]

letter — yrs affecly Kate B —

Notes

1878: Almost certainly, the occasion of this letter is the death of Jewett's father on 20 September 1878. While the signature is not definitive, almost certainly this letter's author is Birckhead, the Kate B. from Newport best known to Jewett in the 1870s.

Alice: This could be Alice Drummond Walworth, sister of Jewett's close friend, Ella Walworth Little, but that is far from certain. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. bMS Am 1743 (7).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

14 Oct 1878

Dear Anna

I send with this your pin which I am afraid you must have needed but it was put away in my desk and quite forgotten — I was very glad to see your father the other day at Parker's* and to hear that you were feeling better. I knew the air at York and the rest

[*Page 2*]

would do you good.

Thank you so much for your kind note of sympathy. Father's death was indeed a most terrible shock to me and I feel the effect of it more now than I have at all. My sister Carrie* is to be married next Monday and that gives us a good deal to do and to think of which is perhaps the

[*Page 3*]

best thing — I will write you when I can [but *corrected*] some how today I am not in the mood — but I wanted to thank you for your kindness if I couldn't do any more.

Yours always affly

Sarah Jewett

Notes

Parker's: In her memoir, *Under the Old Elms* (1895) Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin mentions, among visitors to her home, Dr. Peter Parker (1804-1888), "an eminent Physician and Presbyterian missionary to China, among his many accomplishments" (p. 90). In 1878, he was living in Washington, DC, with his wife, Harriet Colby Webster, and their son, Peter, Jr. (b. 1859). Parker was a regent for the Smithsonian Institution. It is not certain, however, that this is the Parker family to which Jewett refers.

Carrie: Caroline Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes..

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21 October 1878

Marriage of Caroline Augusta Jewett to Edwin Eastman

Elizabeth (Lily)Nelson Fairchild to Sarah Orne Jewett

Belmont, Oct. 26

[*1878*]*

My dear Friend,

Charles has just brought home a couple of "Play-days" and I don't want to let an hour pafs without writing to tell you how much pleasure I have in pofsessing it, and how much I anticipate for the children when it ^shall be^ given to them by and by. We oldsters keep the book stingily at first, and then when the children have it in [their *?*] keep

[*Page 2*]

borrowing it of them!

Many of the stories, — no, some of the stories, I have already read in magazines. I am so glad to see them again and to make the new friends too. As for the "Water Dolly" how glad I am that she leads the van! She is the dearest dolly ever child had. And I must say a word about the cover, which I know you designed. Ah, dear Mifs Jewett! I think, with

[*Page 3*]

a sigh of envy — I cannot help it — of your many gifts. Nature has been more than prodigal to you.

But, dear child, your little book has been a sad sight to me when I remember that the eyes you would most want to have rest on it are closed,* and the dear voice of praise and sympathy silent now. I think I know how empty the rest must sound to you. I care enough about you to know.

[*Page 4*]

We are going in town next Tuesday. Will you not come to see us there when you are in Boston and have an hour to spare? — and will you not now and then write me a little letter and let me feel a part — a very little part! — of the brightness and beauty I admire so much? —

affectionately yrs.

[Lily N. *?*] Fairchild

Notes

1878: Jewett's collection of stories for children, *Play Days*, appeared in 1878.

For information about Fairchild, see Sally Fairchild in Key to Correspondents.

With this letter is an envelope addressed to "Mifs" Sarah O. Jewett, in South Berwick Me, cancelled on 28 October in Belmont, MA.

closed: Fairchild refers to the recent death of Jewett's father, Theodore Herman Jewett, on 20 September 1878.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah

Orne Jewett. Fairchild, [Mrs. Charles] 1 letter; [n.d.]. (63).

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier

South Berwick Maine

4 Nov. 1878

My dear Mr. Whittier:

I send you a copy of my new book — Play Days* — and I hope you will like it a little. Some of the stories were written a long time ago. — You were so kind in liking Deephaven and I have never forgotten the pleasure you gave me.

I have had a great sorrow lately in the death of my father,* and as I write to you I cannot help remembering

[*Page 2*]

how I hoped always that you could come to us for a little visit, for I was so sure you would like driving about Berwick and Father would have been so happy to have you here. And I know you would have enjoyed him, for everyone did who knew him. I miss him terribly — and most of all when I think of going on with my writing by and by.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Play Days: Jewett's collection of children's stories appeared in 1898. Her novel, *Deephaven*, appeared in 1877.

father: Dr. Theodore F. Jewett died on 20 September 1878.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Phillips Library at Peabody Essex Museum / Phillips Library, Salem, MA. A previous transcription by Richard Cary appears in "'Yours Always Lovingly': Sarah Orne Jewett to John Greenleaf Whittier," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 107 (1971): 412-50. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

12 Nov. 1878

Dear Prof. Parsons

I was very glad to get your letter and to hear what you had to say about the book. And I certainly agree with you when you say I ought to do something better — If all goes right this winter I shall write a new book and I mean it shall be the very best I can do. I think I can write a story for girls* that may help a good many who have thought and felt as I have in the

[*Page 2*]

last few years. I don't say this with too much self-confidence or boastfulness: it is only that I am sure I ought to do such a thing — if I can —

As for Playdays = Mr. Osgood* wished to bring out something of mine this fall and I hesitated between a collection of grown-up stories and this — People have always seemed to like these and I have been urged a great many times to put them together. At any rate I think — though they don't take any high flights of fancy or eloquence — they have nothing in them to

[*Page 3*]

do children harm — I meant there should not be and I tried to make them stories of everyday life and possible things! Some of them I wrote years ago and all of them have been printed before — I have always remembered with so much pleasure that you liked one of them: "Patty's dull Christmas" —*

— I sometimes dread the winter here very much — not only from the loneliness which I suppose I should feel just the same everywhere — but because I am so apt to be ill in winter. I do not mean to leave home

[*Page 4*]

for any length of time if I can help it. My youngest sister has just been married* and that leaves only three of us at home now — — —

I wish I could see you and talk about my plans for writing, but I think I may be in town in December. You do not know how glad I am to hear anything you will say to me — You have taught me so much already — I think of you [very *corrected*] often and I am always yours most gratefully & affectionately

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

book for girls: Jewett published two books "for girls," but more than a decade after this letter: *Betty Leicester. A Story for Girls* (1890) and its short sequel, *Betty Leicester's English Xmas: A New Chapter of an Old Story* (1894).

Playdays: *Play Days*, Jewett's collection of children's fiction, appeared in 1878. For James Ripley Osgood, see Key to Correspondents.

"Patty's dull Christmas": This story appeared in *The Independent* (27:25-27), December 23, 1875.

married: Caroline Jewett became Mrs. Edwin Eastman on 21 October, 1878.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1 — Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave. New transcription and notes.

Caroline Jewett Eastman to Abbey O. Eastman

[*17 November1878*]*

Sunday afternoon

Dear Mrs. Eastman

It was so kind of you to write me such a beautiful letter. You don't know how very much I appreciate it. Edwin said he wrote you about our Thanksgiving.

I told him I hate to refuse again your invitation for I am afraid you will think we don't want to go.

But I suppose he told you, we had already

[*Page 2*]

planned for mother to come up here* — for it would be so very hard for her to stay at home, and then Edwin seems very anxious for you to come to <u>his</u> house!

We want you to see our house, for we are very proud of it and hope you will like it. I have a good many things more to do, but am going to take my time about them.

[*Page 3*]

We are both very well indeed and I think house-keeping agrees with both of us!

We went to church this morning, and are going down to Mothers to tea as we do every Sunday night.

They all seem to enjoy coming up to see me, and I am sure I do to have them. Friday, Mother & Grandpa* took dinner with us. It seemed so queer for me to be at the head

[*Page 4*]

of a house and have Grandpa come to see me. I am not going to tell much about the house, but let you wait & see how you like it yourself, for you will certainly come down and make us a visit, won't you?

[Ned *?*] sends ever so much love. And please keep a good share

from your daughter

Carrie

Notes

1878: The Columbia identification page indicates that an envelope with this letter carries a November 18 cancellation. As Caroline says nothing about her son, this letter must have been written in the November following her marriage to Edwin (Ned) Eastman. November 18 fell on a Monday that year, making 17 November the probable composition date.

up here: In *Sarah Orne Jewett*, Paula Blanchard reports that the Eastmans took their first residence a few doors away from the Jewett-Eastman house, where the family lived until William Durham Jewett's death in 1887, when Mary Rice and Sarah Orne Jewett moved into the Jewett house with their mother, and Caroline's family moved into the Jewett-Eastman house.

Grandpa: Dr. William Perry. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Columbia University (New York) Library in Special Collections, Jewett. Transcription from a microfilm copy and annotation by Terry Heller, Coe College.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Daniel Sharp Ford* "Perry Mason"

South Berwick Maine

Nov. 27 1878

My dear Sir

Thank you for your kind letter which I received this morning — I should like to be numbered among your contributors and I am quite willing you should use my name in that way —

And I will send you some sketches by and bye, though I have to confess that I have not always kept my promise so well as I meant to keep it — about stories — I haven't written a great deal lately —

— However I think just now

[*Page 2*]

~~I think~~ of a sketch that I wrote not long ago of sea-shore life. It was to be one of several for a magazine article, and I think it possible that you may find it of use — I will look for it [*deleted words*] ^within a day or two^, and send it to you.

[As *corrected*] for the pay for anything of mine which you print = I would rather you should arrange all that —

I suppose it is a little unnecessary to send one's good wishes to the Companion [since *corrected*] it has, and deserves, so many friends, but I do so most heartily — And I am yrs sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Mr. Mason —

Notes

Ford: Encyclopedia.com indicates that in 1857 Daniel Sharp Ford (1822-1899) became part owner of *The Youth's Companion.* His obituary (New York *Times* 24 December 1899) summarizes his career as an ambitious but modest editor and publisher of religious newspapers, mainly the *Companion*. The *Times* also recounts his invention of the name Perry Mason for his publishing firm, the name by which he was known to its readers. His Find a Grave Memorial includes an extended biographical sketch.

Jewett did not place any known writing with the *Companion* until "The News from Petersham" in April 1884. She published "A Bit of Shore Life" in *Atlantic Monthly* in 1879; though this fits the description she gives, it is not certain that this is the sketch to which she refers.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection, Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Box 2 Folder 132.

Sarah Orne Jewett to "Aunty" Fragment

South Berwick

4 Dec. 1878*

My Dear Aunty

I am dreadfully sorry to see the snow today! I am just beginning to feel like taking some long walks and rides and I am afraid this will put an end to both.

[*Unfinished; no signature*]

Notes

1878: This small fragment of the beginning of a letter was not completed or mailed. After the text, Jewett has made a number of doodles, but the last half of the page is blank. Which aunt she addresses is not yet known.

The manuscript of this fragment is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 7, Item 279.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lillian Munger

[*Dec. 8, 1878*]*

"I think that in the beginning of one's Christian life the question of one's personal salvation from sin is apt to be the whole of religion, but as we go on we care more for the people we are with and are more and more sorry for them if they seem to be wasting their lives and going wrong. Life is best when we lose sight of ourselves in trying to help others..."" ...to tell the truth I puzzle myself very little about things that trouble me and that I dont understand. I think one is sure to grow up to them sooner or later."

"I have felt very sad lately — life is very different with me from what it used to be for I miss Father* so much and the home seems so changed. I find it very hard sometimes to keep myself from growing very dismal, but I do not mean to be that. I am glad that I am better than I was a month ago for I am busy writing now and that makes me much more contented. My life has been singularly free from care and sorrow but I remember when I left Washington last spring I had a strange feeling that I had done with that merry life, and as if my girlhood, which had lasted late, was all over with."

[*Pinny*]

Notes

1878: This transcription contains a note: [Dec. 8, 1878. SOJ, South Berwick, to Lilian Munger, Sidney, Me. Admonition]. The text seems to be selections from a longer letter, which would seem to account for the quotation marks and ellipses. The signature raises questions because this is the only time Jewett's nickname, "Pinny," appears outside of the personal correspondence between Jewett and Annie Adams Fields.

Father: Jewett's father, Theodore Herman Jewett, died on 20 September 1878. Key to Correspondents.

This text is from transcriptions from mixed repositories, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, folder 63, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection. For more information about the individual transcription, contact the Maine Women Writers Collection.

1879

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mr. Squires

South Berwick, Maine

4 Jan. 1879

My Dear Mr. Squires:*

I beg your pardon for any delay in answering your note. I have been away from home and [as *corrected*] I ^was^ expected to return every day, my letters were not forwarded to me.

I am very glad little Deephaven* has found friends in your club, and I thank you heartily for the kind interest which led you to ask me for a bit of my writing to put with the book.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Squires: The recipient of this letter has not been identified.

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel, published in 1877.

With this letter, Jewett enclosed a handwritten and signed copy of her poem, "Missing," which later appeared in *Harper's Magazine* (64: 499) in March 1882. This text varies in punctuation from the published text. Pallmen are pall bearers.

Missing

You walked beside me quick and free
With lingering touch you grasped my hand.
Your eyes looked laughingly in mine,
And now – I can not understand!
I long for you, I mourn for you,
Through all the dark and lonely hours.
Heavy the weight the pallmen lift,
And cover silently with flowers.
Sarah Orne Jewett

These manuscripts are held by the Chicago Historical Museum, Small Manuscripts collections: MSS Alpha Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to William Perry Fragment

South Berwick

13 February 1879

Dear Grandpa

I should have written you sooner but I have been afflicted with rheumatism since I came home, and yesterday was the first day I felt much like writing and then I went to work on a story — I got [*deletion*] from Uncle John,* the other day and I was so much interested in the articles which he spoke about in his letter to you! It shows a wonderful amount of research and I think it is a great pity he shouldn't rewrite it or rather rearrange it for some magazine of course{.}

[*Ends here. No signature.*]

Notes

Uncle John: John T. Perry. See Sarah Chandler Perry, Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, Item 273.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Charlotte Alice Baker

3 March 1879

Dear Miss Baker

Thank you so much for the flowers which perfectly delighted me. I wish you could have seen the roses in a vase which I think was made for them — They were all so lovely, and I enjoyed handling them, and looking at them, and smelling them, and having them more than I can tell you. And they were all flowers that I like

[*Page 2*]

dearly. It was very kind of you — I have been off for a long drive today [up *corrected*] into the Agamenticus region* and round into the upper part of York & home across the hills which you will remember. I dont know that I ever had a better 'sleigh ride' only for one thing: "The General"* kicked up a bit of ice which struck

[*Page 3*]

me in the eye and I find it doesn't feel very well this evening — I got your note and the paper* [in *written over* by *?*] the seven o'clock mail, and it would have been better if I had answered it then but I was in the midst of a book I wanted to finish, and now my eye seems to be finished too! so I shall have to say goodnight.

I had a very long letter

[*Page 4*]

from A. Dawes* lately but I haven't had a chance to answer it, though she will be at home at once now — I suppose — I wish you & Miss Lane* had been here tonight. My mother and I have just finished our little late supper of ale & biscuits, and the moon shines in & the fire isnt out in the fire place though it is late. We are alone now as my sisters are away —

Good night again & God bless you.

Yours most affly

S.O.J.

Notes

Baker: That this is Charlotte Alice Baker is not certain, though she seems to be the only person named "Baker" with whom Jewett corresponded in the 1870s. The mention of "Miss Lane" (Susan Minot Lane) supports this speculation.

Agamenticus region: The town of South Berwick, ME stands near Mt. Agamenticus, the highest point in York County, ME.

"*The General*": Jewett seems to have put this name in quotation marks, but this is not certain. This is a Jewett family horse, but no further information as yet known about this animal.

the paper: While there is no clear evidence to identify this paper, it is the case that in 1879, Baker published “Historical Sketch of Christina Otis” in *History and Proceedings of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association*, Volume 1, pp. 445-467.

A. Dawes: Anna Dawes. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Lane: Susan Minot Lane. See Charlotte Alice Baker in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lillian May Munger

8 March 1879

My dear Lily

I wrote, after some time had passed, to Miss Rounds* and I told her something of what I have learned myself about writing. When I see you I'll tell you more about it ^ (what I said —)^. Her chief fault is that she is young! — I remember I used to feel very much injured if any body said that to me, but I see now plainly enough that one must have more personal experience of the world than [we *?*] can have at sixteen, before one can do much that is really good in the way of writing — [But *corrected*] it is

[*Page 2*]

none the less dependent upon hard work and patience, though one has a "gift" for it — I was glad to get your last letter and meant to answer it soon, but you must take the will for the deed. I have written more or less this winter and I have been away once for three weeks ^at Exeter^ & once for a shorter time at Portsmouth. I have had a good many letters to write as you may imagine, and I have tried very [*deleted word*] hard to keep well so I could stay here through the winter — One of my friends in Washington* will not give me up and keeps insisting that

[*Page 3*]

I must come there! — and I should like it very much on some accounts. I am glad that I gave up going to Florida though I would have enjoyed it very much. They seem glad to have me at home and I have been glad to be here — I am going to Boston for a little while soon but I think there is no doubt that I shall be here when you come this way. And I shall be so glad to see you dear — You must spend part of your time with me, you know — I will only send you a note today — and it will be "more love than letter" at that! Give my kindest regards to your mother and to Annie* & all —

Yours always S. O. J.

[*Back of page 1*]

Write to me soon, wont you dear?

Notes

Miss Rounds: This person has not been identified.

friends in Washington: Among Jewett's friends sometimes in Washington, D.C. were Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin and Anna Laurens Dawes. Jewett spent part of early 1878 in the capital. Key to Correspondents.

Annie: Munger's older sister. See Munger in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers. The envelope associated with this letter is addressed to Millbury, MA.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lillian May Munger

South Berwick

1 May 1879

My dear Lily

I was very glad to get your letter and as I read it I wondered if you knew how different you are from the girl I first knew you! [*so written*] It is just the change I hoped and believed would come in time, but my dear child do not you find that the horizon widens as you go on and that there are troubles and temptations as great and even greater than ever? It is God's law of growth — we cannot get beyond these perplexities and disappointments

[*Page 2*]

and anxieties —— We climb higher, and we see more joys, and more miseries — — — This is all very general on my part, and now I wish to be very particular. In the first place, dear, I beg you to remember your promise to me, not to overtax your self and not to forget that you must "hasten slowly" — It would be very hard for you just now to have to take some long months of enforced idleness, and you know you are not strong, and you have been steadily at work for a long time. So these

[*Page 3*]

new cares and interests will take the greater hold on you — when you work very hard now you are using your capital and that one always has to feel the loss of most keenly in the end. I know it to my cost and so do you. And with your mother so delicate, you must remember that you ought to take great care not to go home nervous and [sick *?*] to worry her. You may think I am speaking far too strongly to you but I could see that you were very tired in Boston and that you felt the

[*Page 4*]

reaction a good deal. Won't you try, dear, to rest all you can and to take things easily, and to remember that even before gaining a good record as a teacher you ought to make sure of keeping as well as you can.

I am very happy when I think of you with your scholars, and of your new, sweet, helpful interest in them — of your wish to come close to them — and I look ahead to your useful loving life, for you know what it is to fight hard with self and will have the [instruction *?*]

[*Page 5*]

sympathy and tenderness, for those who make mistakes and who are in the dark and who need real friendship so much, which I think every teacher ought to have.

As for your going to Wilmington I should advise you decidedly no! There is to some people a certain glory in going far from home — but I fear you would find the climate anything but invigorating and your own position not half so pleasant as it would be in New England. And you would not find such friends

[*Page 6*]

there as you will find here. I do not think you would be able to do so much for others, or that others would help you so much in any way as here. You dont know how great a difference there is between North and South. And if I were you I should like to keep somewhere near my mother — Wilmington is a good way off. — And then if you were dissatisfied after a time and wished to return to this part of the country you would

[*Page 7*]

have to begin all over again here — dont you see? ——

Now don't be discouraged at the sight of so much good advice. I do truly give it from my heart and from the best knowledge I have — I am so anxious that nothing may come your way to hinder you . — —

I have been at home a day or two over a week and the last of my visit in Boston was very pleasant — but I caught cold and have been sick since I came back. I am beginning

[*Page 8*]

to feel better however and as soon as it is less damp I shall be all right. I have a good deal of work planned out this summer — in the way of writing. — I had a sweet little note from your Annie* acknowledging a little Easter card that I sent her. Give my love to her and to your mother when you write —

Goodbye dear and God bless you always — and your work, and [and *repeated*] your play, and I hope you will take all you can of that!

Yrs. sincerely affly

S.O.J.

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

I hope you liked Mr. Brooks* at Easter. I heard of you then through Mrs. Halliburton,* but I failed to see you myself. —

Notes

Annie: Munger's older sister. See Munger in Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Brooks: Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Halliburton: Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Adams Davenport Claflin

South Berwick

10 May 1879

My dear Adams

I did not answer your letter sooner because every day I have been expecting these photographs to come from Boston and I wished to send you one. I hope you will like it. I think people usually think them good. I am glad to have some at last, for I have been promising to many of my friends for so long. I have not got all the pictures yet. The trouble about going to the fashionable photographer

[*Page 2*]

is that he keeps you waiting.

I was so glad to get your nice long letter and to hear something about you my dear fellow, but I am so sorry you have not been well. I wish indeed that I could have been with you in Florida. I often thought of you and when I see you I shall ask you no end of questions. I certainly hope to see you here this summer if all goes right, but I cant promise you much in the way of hunting. Poor Mr. Eastman* is usually doomed

[*Page 3*]

to disappointment, but he takes it very kindly for he likes to be off in the woods ^if he doesnt shoot much^. I had a capital ride yesterday, about fifteen miles, and at least ten were through the woods. I took John,* our man, with me and we explored cart paths to my hearts content and waded brooks to "Sheila's"* heart's sorrow — The season is very late with us. The buds are just starting on the trees and we are in the midst of the mayflower season. While I suppose you are far on your way to the golden rods and

[*Page 4*]

asters! Wont you be glad to get home again! I wish you had been there while I was in Boston. I was in Cambridge and Newport and Boston a month or more and I had a very nice time. I think I never enjoyed being with my friends more. Do tell me a little about your mother and Mary Davenport.* I haven't heard a word from them all winter, and if it weren't for the newspapers I should be in a great puzzle. I happened to take up a Sunday Herald a while ago which gave Mary great compliments. I meant to send her those particulars but I didn't. I am

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

going out now and must say good bye to you. Thank you so much for your letter. I think of you so often Addie and you know I am always yours most lovingly

Sarah

Mary* wishes to be remembered to you.

Notes

Mr. Eastman: Edwin Eastman, husband of Jewett's sister Caroline Augusta Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Sheila: Jewett's horse.

Mary Davenport: See Emma Ellis in Key to Correspondents. In the absence of any other known "Mary Davenport" connected with the Claflin and Ellis families, it seems possible that Jewett refers to Mrs. Ellis's daughter, Mary Agnes, by this name, to distinguish her from her step-grandmother. Presumably something has appeared in the Boston *Sunday Herald* about Mary Davenport, but this article has not been located.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Henry Mills Alden

South Berwick, Maine

21 June [1879]*

Dear Sir

I enclose some verses though I think you may say you have enough of my writing already.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1879: "21 June" appears to have been added in another hand. Other notes appear on the folded sheet. At the bottom of page 1, Jewett's text, in pencil: "Mr. Alden —". What would normally be page 2 is blank. On page 3 appear notes in what may be three hands. These notes are at a right angle to Jewett's text.

In one hand: "51.563";

In what may be another: "Jewett, Sarah O. June 21, '80".

In pencil, "'80" is circled with an arrow pointing to this note: "Error of Alden or his clerk. Should be 1879." Presumably, the penciled notes are by Cary.

On what would be page 4, appears this note, also at a right angle to Jewett's text, probably in the same hand as the second note on page 3: "A Night in June".

Richard Cary included his transcription in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.* There he notes that Alden rejected "A Night in June." It was published later in the *Christian Union*, XXII (July 7, 1880), 4.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin

South Berwick

6 July 1879

Dear Mrs. Claflin

Will you take dear Sarah* in for a day and night this week if she will be good, and fetch particulars? I hardly dare to go away at all on Carrie's* account, but she is much better than she has been and I ought to go to Boston

[*Page 2*]

to see Mr. Osgood —* in fact I ought to have gone before{.} Besides I have promised to spend a night in Newport to see Ellen Mason* before she goes away — I cant tell you when I shall start now, but I will send either a note or telegram. I wanted to see you and Mary* dreadfully before your note came, and

[*Page 3*]

all the more since — and yet I have been obliged to put off my little visit from one week to another. I am in a great hurry to see Addie* and I shall be so disappointed if he is not at home. Freeland* surprised us yesterday by walking in — grown very much and as restless as ever — poor little fellow!

With love to all

Yours ever

Sarah

[Sarah O. Jewett. *in another hand*]

Notes

Sarah: Jewett refers to herself.

Carrie: Carrie Jewett Eastman. She was due to give birth to her son, Theodore, on 4 August. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

Ellen Mason: Key to Correspondents.

Mary: The identity of this Mary remains uncertain, but seems likely that she is Mary Davenport, the daughter of Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

Addie: Mary Claflin's son and Mrs. Ellis's half-brother, Adams Davenport Claflin (1862-1910).

Freeland: Almost certainly this is Freeland Jewett (1865-1937). See Annie Freeland Jewett in Key to Correspondents

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J. Transcription and annotation by Terry Heller, Coe College.

Sarah Orne Jewett to William Dean Howells

South-Berwick, Maine

30 July 1879

My dear Mr. Howells

Thank you with all my heart for your very kind and pleasant letter which I was so glad to have. I am delighted that you have liked my stories — and I am half glad and half sorry to know that there is another Georgie.* — Of course a good deal of what I said about

[*Page 2*]

mine was suggested by the rest! but my little fellow really did like going out alone for lobsters better than playing with other children ashore. It was not true about the auction or the tea-party — though you will be sure that, living here in the country as I do, within a few miles of the sea, I have had a great many friends and a great many experiences

[*Page 3*]

which bear a strong likeness to those two. I was so much interested in what you said of the girls who took such pleasure in hearing your talks about books — I am always glad when people are fond of reading! and when a life is shut in to very narrow bounds in the country I think books give perhaps the greatest pleasure — But I am writing you too long a letter, only I must thank you again and say how kind I think you were to write me as you did.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett.

Notes

another Georgie: Jewett refers to her short story, "A Bit of Shore Life," which appeared in *Atlantic* in August of 1879. There is an auction in this story, but not an actual tea party.

The manuscript of this letter is held in the Joseph A. Howells Collection of the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library, Incoming Correspondence I-K" in Howells, William Dean — Gilded Age Collections 487, GA20. New transcription and notes.

And earlier slightly different transcription is in transcriptions from mixed repositories, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, folder 63, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection. For more information about the individual transcription, contact the Maine Women Writers Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick Maine*

1 Sept. 1879

Dear Anna

I beg pardon for not having answered your letter sooner, but I have written very few letters as I had to be busy with some stories & we have had people staying here and I have been on the fly a good deal of the time —

And first I must tell you that I am afraid I cannot go to you this fall — much as I would like it — There are one or two short visits I must make

[*Page 2*]

before cold weather but I shall be away from home as little as possible — [both *corrected*] because I think I ought to be here and because I wish to write — You know how it is: if I go to you, I must make a dozen other visits, and then the next three months will be gone before I know it. I think I shall go to Newport again for a few days this month for I shall not see my friend whom I am to visit for a very long time again if I do not — as she lives very far south.* I promised her

[*Page 3*]

a little visit early in the summer — . I hate to refuse when my friends ask me to come to them — in the first place I am too selfish to be willing to give up the good times and then I am sorry to disappoint people whom I am so fond of. And I have been away so often that I really at one time fell into a confirmed habit of visiting!

—— I should like to have you here now to go out riding with me. I enjoy my horse more and more and I have ridden more this summer than ever before. I had her down at York

[*Page 4*]

for [a *corrected*] week this last month and it was great fun — I used to go off by myself almost every evening for two hours or so; the York roads are much better for riding than these in Berwick. Do you still like your horse? I got a new phaeton this summer for Sheila* — a light little gig which she whisks along joyfully. I dont like to make her pull anything heavy for I think it is bad for a saddle horse — I am so glad you liked the stories. I have some new ones almost ready and I am

[*Page 5*]

to begin my proofs in a week or two. The other day I found I had written eighty-five pages — letters [*mark*] and all — and I came down stairs as late as usual ^in the morning^ and did ever so many things beside — Most of it was first writing of course, for I copy much more slowly than that. I believe I have never enjoyed writing more, and after this month I shall have a good deal more time for it — I think there must be twenty or thirty people coming here before cold weather. I tried to count up yesterday

[*Page 6*]

and keep thinking of one and another —. We had very few here [through *corrected*] July & August or rather through July — on my sister's account — Did you know that I have a nephew?* He is a very fine baby but I suppose I shall not be so disinclined to touch him when he is a year older{.} I like him very much however — & he is named for my father —

I wonder if you are going to W. this winter?* I don't know whether I should like another glimpse of it or not — though I always like to think of

[*Page 7*]

my winter there or rather my two months — I saw a good deal of Maidie Devens* at York this summer and I have a greater fancy for her than ever — It seems to me there was some one else — no matter! —

I had the nicest letter a while ago from Ella Walworth that I ever had in my life (and it ought to be answered too!). Isn't it funny that she and Mrs. Goddard should have been boarding down at Nantucket together? Mrs. Goddard spoke so kindly of Ella and seemed to be delighted with

her — I haven't heard from the Horsfords for some time. I promised to go down to

[*Page 8*]

Shelter Island but when Lilian wrote me about coming I had to give it up [*several deleted words*] though I do hope I shall see them before winter{.} I grow fonder and fonder of them all.

I believe John Burleigh goes on worse and worse — I did honestly try to help that fellow — but it seemed to be no use at all —

—— There are so many things I wish I could say to [you *corrected*] — I hope all goes well with you. I suppose you are as busy as I with visitors and with your 'own affairs' though I wonder [where *corrected*] we draw the line between our duty & other peoples! It is a puzzle sometimes to me — but I

[*Up the left margin of page 5*]

grow more certain that I cannot write so much as I do and do everything that other girls do beside. Write to me when

[*Up the left margin of page 6*]

you can, and I always say from my heart God bless you!

Yours sincerely and affly

S.O.J.

Notes

Maine: In another hand, probably by Dawes, "Sarah Orne Jewett" is written at the top right of this page.

far south: Richard Cary notes that Jewett's close friends, the sisters Ellen and Ida Mason, had homes on Boston's Beacon Hill and in Newport, R.I. While neither of these is likely to be the friend who lives "very far south," it is likely that this unnamed friend was their guest in Newport.

Sheila: Jewett's first horse.

nephew: Theodore Jewett Eastman, who years later was to become the trustee of the Jewett Family Papers. Key to Correspondents.

W. this winter: Anna Dawes's father, Henry L. Dawes, served as Republican U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, 1875-1893. The family usually resided in Washington, D.C. during the terms of the Senate. Key to Correspondents.

Maidie Devens: Little has been learned about Maidie Devens. The Cambridge (MA) Historical Society has published "Recollections of the Cambridge Social Dramatic Club" (1960) by Richard W. Hall. Hall notes that Maidie Devens, along with Alice Longfellow, "starred" in the club's first performance, on 1 February 1877, of *The Critic*. It is possible that she was Mary Devens (1857-1920), the prominent American photographer who, according to Wikipedia, became "a founding member of Alfred Stieglitz's famed Photo-Secession." As the daughter of a prominent Cambridge family and a professional, she was likely to have associated with the Cambridge Social Dramatic Club and to be known to Jewett.

Ella Walworth ... Mrs. Goddard: For Ella Walworth Little, see Key to Correspondents.

Martha LeBaron Goddard (1829-1888) was the compiler, along with Harriet Waters Preston, of *Sea and Shore: A Collection of Poems* (1874).

the Horsfords ... Shelter Island ... Lilian: See Key to Correspondents. Eben Norton Horsford.

*John Burleig*h: In his notes for a July 7, 1878 letter to Dawes, Hollis says: John H. Burleigh (1822-1879), the Maine congressman from South Berwick, had died a year earlier, and I imagine the reference here is to a son who perhaps had remained in Washington. A later reference, in the letter of September 1, 1879, indicates that young Burleigh had some personal difficulty, perhaps a drinking problem." John H. Burleigh did, indeed, have a son, John Micajah Burleigh (1854-), who graduated from Williams College in 1878 and married Lulu Dickerson in 1880 and who became a businessman in South Berwick. What Jewett was trying unsuccessfully to help him with remains unknown. See *Who's who in New England* (1915), p. 186.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. BOX 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Charles Fairchild* to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*26 September 1879*]

[*Letterhead*]

S. D. Warren & Co.

Cathedral Building,

Boston

[*End letterhead*]

My dear Miss Jewett

I am very sorry to have missed seeing you today. The more so as I have much to say of the beauties, virtues, excellencies & charms of our new boy now something more than four days old.

All these attractions (& more as he grows) are to be known to the world at large as Nelson Fairchild & to his intimates as [iteil" *?*] —

M^me^ Fairchild is doing very [nicely *?*]{.}

Yours truly,

Chas. Fairchild

Sept 26. 1879

Notes

Fairchild: Charles Fairchild was the father of Jewett correspondent Sally Fairchild. Key to Correspondents.

Associated with this letter is an envelope addressed to Jewett in South Berwick, but forwarded to the care of Mr. J. H. Rice, 629 Warren St., Roxbury, Mass.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Series: I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett MS Am 1743, (62) Fairchild, Charles. 1 letter; (1879). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 4, Folder 159, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lillian May Munger

South Berwick 17 Nov '79*

My dear Lily

I thanked you so heartily in my thoughts for these roses that it flashed though my mind only yesterday, that I had never told you ~~so~~ by letter how much pleased I was at your remembering me. It was such a lovely thing* for you to do dear, and I did appreciate it as much as you could possibly wish. I am shocked at myself for forgetting to write you, but indeed I thanked you over and over again{.}

[*Page 2*]

They looked very fresh and lovely and bright when I opened the box, but they were tired with their long journey and did not last as long after I took them out as I wish they would have, though I had some of them here on my desk until two or three days ago. — I heard in a roundabout way that you had written a little paper for Zion's Herald* — was it true and why didn't you tell me about it? I

[*Page 3*]

shall be very anxious to see it. Wont you tell me what number it was, so I may [find *?*] and get it? or if you will send me yours I will read it and return it to you at once — I have been busy as ever lately, and [just *corrected*] now I am dress-making for I have never had a chance yet to get ready for winter! I am going to Boston in a fortnight, for a very short visit and then I am coming home to do nothing but write for a good many weeks — and you must wish

[*Page 4*]

me good luck!

I am so glad you are growing contented and I think of you very often. I wish I could see you this minute, for it was such a hurried visit last summer, and I had hoped to see a great deal of you. Do you know I have a new book out — Old Friends & New* — (with Miss Sydney's Flowers in it!) and it is getting on capitally. Do write soon, and I will not count this a letter {—} it is only an apology — and a kiss!

Yours always affly

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

'79: The envelope accompanying this letter is addressed to Tileston Normal School, Wilmington, NC.

thing: Jewett may have put "thing" in quotation marks, but it is difficult to be sure.

Zion's Herald: Wikipedia says that the *Zion's Herald*, now *The Progressive Christian*, founded in 1823, was published under that title in the period of 1868 - c.2003 by the Methodist Episcopal Church. Whether Lilian Munger published a paper there in 1879 or ever is not yet known.

Old Friends & New ... Miss Sydney's Flowers: Jewett's first collection of stories for adult readers appeared in 1879. "Miss Sydney's Flowers" first appeared in *The Independent* (26:1-4) for July 16, 1874.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Adams Davenport Claflin

South Berwick

2n Dec. 1879

My dear Adams

I thank you very much for the photograph which came this morning. I should like to see the bicycle itself and its owner better than the picture! I wonder if both are enjoying the smooth Washington pavements

[*Page 2*]

just now! I should think you would spend your time in going back and forth from the Capitol & Georgetown!

Thank you too, for the invitation to your Ball at Philadelphia* which came here while I was away. I have been gone for three weeks and made

[*Page 3*]

a short visit in Portsmouth before that. I never go there that I dont think of the bean-poppers!* and do you remember the drive home and the little green apples! I have no hope of either riding or driving much for some time to come for there is a good deal of snow and I have

[*Page 4*]

to keep in the house, but I have a new habit just home from Hollander's* and I shall be fine enough to make up when I do ride out again. I am going to send a letter to Mary Davenport* tomorrow and I shall tell her about my Boston visit which I enjoyed immensely.

Good night, and I send you no end of good wishes for Christmas and the New Year, dear Addie.

Yours always affly

S. O. Jewett

Notes

Ball at Philadelphia: Adams Claflin turned 17 years old in 1879. It is unknown as yet to which ball he might have invited Jewett.

bean-poppers: In the nineteenth century, a bean-popper may have been a kind of sling-shot.

Hollander's: This is likely L. P. Hollander & Co., Boston dealers in dry goods and men's and women's apparel, established in 1848 by M. T. Hollander. See *The Book of Boston* (1916), p. 335.

Mary Davenport: See Emma Ellis in Key to Correspondents. In the absence of any other known "Mary Davenport" connected with the Claflin and Ellis families, it seems possible that Jewett refers to Mrs. Ellis's daughter, Mary Agnes, by this name, to distinguish her from her step-grandmother.

This letter is written on black-bordered stationery. The manuscript is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J. Transcription and annotation by Terry Heller, Coe College.

December 3, 1879

***Atlantic Monthly* dinner to honor Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. on his 70th birthday.**

Paula Blanchard identifies this as an important inception date in the friendship of Sarah Orne Jewett and Annie Fields, who both attended this dinner. Blanchard says: "Annie ... afterwards wrote to Ellen Mason how particularly she enjoyed seeing Miss Jewett. Actually, Ellen reported that Annie had been 'delighted ... to make your acquaintance' [Ellen Mason to Sarah Orne Jewett, Mar. 2 (1880)]. Blanchard notes that there is evidence Fields and Jewett had become acquainted by 1877 (Sarah Orne Jewett 113-4). Several letters in this collection mention a meeting of the pair near the beginning of 1880.

Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward to Sarah Orne Jewett

Andover 12th December

[1879]*

Dear Miss Jewett;

I thank you for your book which I have read through with great enjoyment. I found most of the friends were "old" to [me *?*] after all but none the less welcome for that.

You have often been told what a quiet and finished touch you have. I need not repeat the story. Shall I tell you one thing I would

[*Page 2*]

like to see you do?

When you brought Mrs. Fields the roses there was a red one hidden among the [protecting *?*] white. Once — the day I met you — I saw the flash of the red rose in your quiet face.

[*Unrecognized word*] God makes both kinds and many people love the white better — learn its lesson better — if the other is there

contrasting — Give us sometime "the red red rose".* And believe me to be with real thanks

[*Page 3*]

for the pleasure of receiving your book from yourself and with real appreciation of its high and calm and fine quality,

Your sincere friend

E. S. Phelps —

Notes

1879: Jewett has sent Phelps a copy of *Old Friends and New*, published near the end of 1879.

rose: Probably an allusion to the poem, "A Red, Red Rose," by Scottish poet, Robert Burns (1759-1796). Wikipedia.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. Ward, Elizabeth Stuart (Phelps) 1844-1911. 2 letters; 1888 & [n.d.].bMS Am 1743 (227). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 97, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Sarah Orne Jewett

Oak Knoll Danvers

12 Mo 30 1879

My dear Friend,

I am glad to get thy charming book from thy own hand. I have read "Deephaven"* over half a dozen times and always with gratitude to thee for such a book — so simple, pure, & so true to Nature. And "Old Friends & New"* I shall certainly read as often. When tired & worried I resort to thy books and find rest & refreshing.

[*Page 2*]

I recommend them to every body, & every body likes them. There is no dissenting opinion; & already thousands whom thee have never seen love the author as well as her books.

I wish thee had taken {in} Oak Knoll on thy way from Boston.

Remember me to thy sister whom I met at Mrs Claflin's* & take for thyself all the good wishes of thy friend.

John G. Whittier

Notes

12 Mo 30 1879: Whittier uses the Quaker dating system, giving the day and the number of the month. This letter is written on lined paper.

A transcriber's note reads: "the first paragraph of this letter appears verbatim in Pollard 413, footnoted there as appearing in Picard." Samuel Thomas Pickard and John A. Pollard are Whittier biographers.

Deephaven: Jewett's first novel appeared in the spring of 1877.

Old Friends and New: Jewett's collection of short works appeared in 1879.

thy sister ... Mrs Claflin's: At the home of Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin, Whittier has met Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the South Berwick Public Library, South Berwick, ME. Transcription by John Richardson.

1880

John Greenleaf Whittier to Mary Bucklin Claflin

Oak Knoll Danvers

4 February 1880

I met E.S.P.* and Sarah Jewett at the Holmes Breakfast.*

Notes

E.S.P.: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. Key to Correspondents.

Holmes Breakfast: In *Sarah Orne Jewett*, Paula Blanchard says that in December 1879, *Atlantic Monthly* held a breakfast to honor Oliver Wendell Holmes on his 70th birthday (p. 114). Blanchard notes that this was the first occasion on which the magazine invited women authors to join in such a celebration.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers. The transcription of this sentence appears in John B. Pickard, *The Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* v. 3, p. 416.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick 13 February 1880

Dear Prof. Parsons

It isn't because I do not think of you that I do not write, but I have not been at all well since I saw you last. I came home very tired from

Boston, and have had an uncommon attack of rheumatism! — I was tired [before *corrected*] I left home for I wrote altogether too much last year, and my gayeties were too much for me! However I am

[*Page 2*]

beginning to feel like myself again — and to think a good deal about my next visits.

The doctor forbade my reading or writing much, if at all, so the grand plans I made about my new book had to be given up for the time [being *corrected*]. I think it is just as well on many accounts, but for some reasons I am sorry for I wished to write the book as soon as possible. Every year alters the point

[*Page 3*]

of view from which one sees life and I do not wish to look at girlhood entirely from the outside — I think that was the reason why people liked [Deephaven *corrected*] — it was a book written by a girl, which is perhaps a rarer thing than seems possible at first thought. I am beginning to like it myself in a curious sort of way, for I am not the one who wrote it any longer and in this last year since my father's death, though I have learned many new things

[*Page 4*]

I have outgrown a good deal else — and I suppose this will always be the fashion of life!

— It is always very unsatisfactory when I try to write to you — for I think how much better it would be if I were sitting in the sunshine in your pleasant study and we were talking together. It is listening to you that I like best. But I send you this sheet of paper because it will tell you that I think of you often and often and that I am always your grateful and affectionate

Sarah O. Jewett

Note

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1— Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lillian May Munger

[*February 16, 1880*]*

My dear Lily

I have been wishing I could write you but I have been sick most of the time since Christmas and have had to give up writing just as much as possible. I shall answer your nice long letter as soon as I can for there are a good many things I wish

[*Page 2*]

to talk about. [*Deleted word*] And I must thank you for the Valentine which was an exquisitely pretty thing. I think such little remembrances are so pleasant. Keep well dear and write me just as often and as fully as you can for I like to know about you.

Yours always and affly

S.O.J.

South Berwick 16 Feb. 1880.

Notes

February 16, 1880: The envelope associated with this letter is addressed to Tileston Normal School in Wilmington, NC.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Henry Mills Alden

South Berwick, Maine

February 19, 1880

My dear Mr. Alden:

I am going to do something which I never did before and which if I had thought about it at all I should have said I could not do, but I wish you would print that sketch.* Of course in a general way an author is always supposed to be in an anxious state to have such a thing happen but I beg you will not believe that I am sensitively confident

[*Page 2*]

of my rights, — or that I am begging for the money ~~it~~ ^my work^ will bring. For I have money enough and I suppose I could get the sketch printed elsewhere — in fact I am very sure of that. But it is just here: I wish to keep the two together: they have always belonged to each other — which feeling I am sure you will understand, and I read them at two clubs which united them still more closely — and though one club was in Portsmouth — which dear old town is not distinguished as

[*Page 3*]

being literary! [*deletion, possibly* and] I found to my surprise that almost everybody liked the horse sketch best, people whom I thought (to tell the truth) I might be boring with it. And I don't believe it would be out of place in Harper's — I have been brought up to read Harper's, and I wouldn't have sent it to you in that case. Though I hesitated at first from knowing that you already had two of my sketches, & though I meant ^at first^ to ask you to send me back The Jacqueminot Rose" and take this instead because it ^is^ so much better — I dont

[*Page 4*]

believe I have the usual authorly feeling about what I write. I think* about my sketches very much as I do about other people's. And I wish you would change your mind, for I am pretty sure you would not be sorry for it. I know that at least a hundred people told me how much they liked it, or told others so — and I think they were a fair sample of your readers. I am glad you like it yourself — and I thank you for your letter which was very kind — And I hope I am not annoying you now, but I couldn't help speaking as I have because I believe it so heartily —

Yours sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1880: It is not clear who underlined the date. Added to the top of page 1 are these notes:

Top right in another hand, "Jewett, Sarah O."

Top left in a hand identified by Cary as Alden's, "I ask to reconsider" followed by initials Cary reads as "HMA." Probably Cary is correct, but the initials are difficult to make out.

sketch: Cary identifies the sketch as "An October Ride," which Jewett later refers to as "the horse sketch." He says:

> She had evidently submitted two prose sketches, "The Jacqueminot Rose" and "Miss Daniel Gunn." Alden presently sent the "Rose" back and Miss Jewett seems never to have succeeded in getting it published. When she received the rejected manuscript, she sent Alden a third sketch entitled "An October Ride." This too he declined but printed the "Gunn" story under the title "An Autumn Holiday," *Harper's*, LXI (October 1880), 683-691; collected in *Country By-Ways*. Manuscript copies of "The Jacqueminot Rose" are in Harvard's Houghton Library Collection: Sarah Orne Jewett compositions and other papers, MS Am 1743.22, item 52.

think: Jewett has superimposed two words here. I am fairly sure they are "think" and "feel." I believe Cary is correct to read her final intention as "think."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Richard Cary included his transcription in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters. New trans*cription and notes.

Edward Fiske Merriam to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*This is a form letter. Only the underlined parts are handwritten*.]

Publication Office

OF

GOOD COMPANY

Springfield Mass.

Feb. 19 1880.

Mifs S. O. Jewett

Dear Madam: ——

Please accept thanks

for your sketch entitled

A Little Traveler,

published in the last number of Good Company, a copy of which is mailed to you.

A check to your order for $ 26.00 in payment for the sketch is inclosed, your receipt for which will oblige

Yours respectfully,

E. J. Merriam,

B.

Notes

A Little Traveler: Jewett's sketch appeared in *Good Company* (March 1880), and was collected in *The Mate of the Daylight* (1883).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 3, Item 149 I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Henry Mills Alden

South Berwick, Maine

23 February 1880

Dear Mr. Alden

I send you the sketch,* though I have been thinking that it would be better not, and I must say that you are very good to take so much trouble about it. . . I have been reading it over for

I thought I might not remember it exactly, and seeing it now might change the old impression of it. But I must say honestly that I like it still! and I think in some ways it is one of the very best bits of writing I have ever done. There

[*Page 2*]

is more in it to remember & though there are no 'characters,' it has the spirit of this part of the country. = But the question is, I can see, whether it will give pleasure to a sufficiently large proportion of the people who ^would^ read it.

There is one point in its favour which I never thought of before: and that is, a sketch which has something to say about a girl's "rough-riding" is a little of a novelty in magazine literature. This has at least the virtue of being true, of my horse, the 'farm' and the old parsonage — which is more than I can

[*Page 3*]

say for my sketches usually. Isn't it a curious thing that most people who read the two would probably call this made-up, and the one which you already have, drawn from life?

I am afraid I said some odd things in my first letter about my two small audiences, but I meant that I was not trusting ^alone^ to my highly critical friends in Boston — because what many of ~~of~~ those would like would be pretty sure not to be 'popular' — but the second time I read the sketch, my friends were mostly* people who like to be entertained better than

[*Page 4*]

to be puzzled — and I thought both together would be a fair example to judge by — And I couldn't be 'taken in' by the polite speeches which anybody tried to make to me out of kindness alone! — But I have made my 'last appearance on any stage' unlike my New York namesake* —

I hope to be in New York for a day or two either just before or just after Easter — And I should be very glad indeed to see you — and I hope nothing will happen to prevent it — I am glad just now that we never have met, for I should be sorry if I ever thought that any personal feeling hindered the sway of justice (which ought to have been

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

written with a very big J!) Yours sincerely, S. O. Jewett —

Indeed my heart will not break this time and you must not think of that at any rate!*

[*Page 5*]*

I am so glad that Mrs. Alden likes my stories! I am always forgetting that anyone reads them except the people I know, and it is always a delight and surprise to find a new friend. I hope you will pardon this postscript to my long and unbusiness-like letter —

Notes

sketch: Jewett's "An October Ride" was not published in a magazine; it first appeared in her book, *Country By-Ways* (1881).

mostly: There is an apparently random mark above the "y" in this word.

namesake: Richard Cary notes:

> Sara Jewett (1847-1899) was the leading lady of Augustin Daly's Union Square Theatre company. Miss Jewett of South Berwick recounts drolly that upon several occasions during her travels she was mistaken for Miss Jewett of New York, then considered one of the most beautiful women in America. In an ironic extension of the parallel, illness and enforced retirement became the lot of both thespian and literary Jewett. Sara Jewett's last appearance as an actress took place in the spring of 1883.

any rate: Cary notes:

> Alden's editorial judgment was not swayed by Miss Jewett's eloquence. Although they met soon after the date of this letter and became friends — he was one of the group that saw her off on her first trip to Europe in the spring of 1882 — he accepted no more of her sketches for nearly five years. He printed five of her poems, but no prose until "Farmer Finch" in January 1885.

Page 5: This note appears alone on a quarter sheet in the Colby College folder of letters to Alden. While it could belong with Jewett's letter of 19 February, Cary places it with this 23 February letter, presumably because it probably is a response to Alden's reply to the 19 February letter.

Also in the same Colby folder with the Alden letters is another note on a separate partial sheet:

> Mr. Alden
>
> was right in his first opinion about "Country Byways."
>
> Emphatically, JWH

This note presents several mysteries. "Mr. Alden" may have been written in a different hand from the rest of the note. Transcription of the

initials "JWH" is uncertain. If it is correct, who is this person? Of Jewett's correspondents, the one person with these initials is Julia Ward Howe. Because the note is not dated and it lacks context, there is as yet little one can say about its significance. It refers to Jewett's book, not necessarily to "An October Ride"; for this reason it would seem to have only a distant connection with the Jewett-Alden dialogue about "An October Ride."

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1. Richard Cary included his transcription in *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters.* New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin

South Berwick*

29 February 1880

Dears Mrs. Claflin

I was so glad to get your letter and I wish to tell you that I fully appreciated your writing such a long one in the long "week before Lent"* — I am gaining very fast now and begin to feel pretty well again, but it was

[*Page 2*]

discouraging to be so forlorn for so many weeks and I got almost out of patience. I dont write or read much yet, but I take long drives every pleasant day and that uses up a good deal of time!

I meant to go to Philadelphia this month, but of course I could not, and now it will be getting so

[*Page 3*]

hot there that I am going to put off my visits until autumn. I hate Philadelphia in Spring.

I am so glad you have had such a pleasant winter. I think my wishes came true! I have thought of you all so many times and I shall be so glad to see you again and to hear 'the particulars' — I saw that Mrs. Ellis* was with you by the Saturday Evg Gazette* and that

[*Page 4*]

must have been so pleasant for her and for you — I am afraid little Mary Davenport* will put on a few airs after so successful a season, but I wouldn't be long taking them out of her, if I had the opportunity & you might tell her those particulars! Mary* sends you her love and so do I. I am going to Boston as soon as I am well enough — to stay three or four weeks (or more!) until it is settled weather here. Mrs. Fields* wanted me to spend last week there but I didn't. I saw that you and Mrs. Goddard* had been

[*Down from the left margin of page 1*]

to see Mrs Hayes* together, and I hope you had a pretty time. I am so fond of Mrs. Goddard [*deleted word?*] Do you think you shall come home early this year? You dont know how much I wish I could see you.

Yours always lovingly

Little Sarah

Notes

South Berwick: all of the pages of this letter are black bordered.

lent: In 1880, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent in the Christian liturgical calendar, fell on February 11.

Mrs. Ellis: Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

Evg Gazette: Which newspaper Jewett was reading for social news about the Claflins is as yet unknown.

Mary Davenport: Possibly the daughter of Emma Ellis and step-granddaughter of Mrs. Claflin, sixteen-year-old Mary Agnes Ellis has been enjoying the legislative term in Washington, DC. See Emma Ellis in Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents. This may be the first time Jewett had an invitation to stay with Mrs. Fields.

Mrs. Goddard: Martha LeBaron Goddard (1829-1888) was the compiler, along with Harriet Preston Waters, of *Sea and Shore: A Collection of Poems* (1874).

Mrs. Hayes: Rutherford B. Hayes (1822-1893) was President of the United States 1877-1881. His wife was Lucy Webb (1831-1889). During his presidency, William Claflin served in the House of Representatives from Massachusetts.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lillian May Munger

Boston 14 Mar 1880*

My dear Lily

I am so sorry not to have written you sooner for I have wished so many times to send you a letter. I hope you are better for I am better now, though not well yet, and I am beginning to see the end of my long illness which has certainly been very hard to bear — I wish very

[*Page 2*]

much to hear from you again dear child. I hope it is almost time for you to come North. I am to be here a fortnight longer at 34 Union Park.* I have thought of you and of your last letter a great deal and I hope it will not be long before we can have a nice long talk together

Yours always

Sarah

Notes

1880: The envelope associated with this letter is cancelled on March 14, and addressed to Tileston Normal School in Wilmington, NC.

34 Union Park: In *Boston's South End* (2004), Anthony Mitchell Sammarco notes that Alexander Hamilton Rice was at one time a resident at 34 Union Park in Boston. Alexander Rice was the father of John Rice, who married Jewett's close friend Cora Clark. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

9 E. 38th St. New York

Thursday — [*April 1880*]*

Dear Mr. Aldrich

I enclose the bit of verse — If you dont like it, will you send it to me at 85 Chase St. Baltimore next week? — but I may have frozen to death in the meantime; if this weather lasts!

Yours sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1880: This guess is based upon Jewett addressing the letter to Mr. Aldrich, as opposed to the more intimate addresses of later letters, and upon the supposition that Aldrich *did* like and publish her poem. In a letter of 13 February 1880, Jewett tells Theophilus Parsons that she expects to be in New York just after Easter, which fell on 28 March in 1880.

1880 was the first of only two years during Aldrich's tenure as *Atlantic* editor, when any of Jewett's poems appeared in *Atlantic Monthly*. If this supposition is correct, then the poem probably was "Verses for a Letter," published in April. Her poem, "A Caged Bird" appeared in June 1887.

But, of course, if Aldrich did not accept this poem and publish it immediately, this letter could be from any year between 1880 and 1890.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Emma Harding Claflin Ellis

34 Union Park*

Wednesday

[*In another hand* Apr 15, 1880 (*or 1885*)]*

Dear Mrs. Ellis

I had a letter from Mrs. Claflin* this morning asking me to make her a little visit on & after the 26th and I have just been thinking what I should say! I write [*unreadable faint script*] to see her, and yet I am not by any means well yet and I am afraid I

[*Page 2*]

will take very small part in the festivities she suggests.

[*Perhaps an unreadable word*] I can only promise myself the pleasure conditionally and I am going to do that. If I feel as well on Friday as I do now, I think I shall go out in the train to see you for an hour or two. If you are to be in town that day or especially busy would you please send me a

[*Page 3*]

line here? I should probably go out early in the afternoon.

Yours always lovingly

Sarah

You wouldn't let my coming interfere with whatever you were going to do you know!

Notes

34 Union Park: In *Boston's South End* (2004), Anthony Mitchell Sammarco notes that Alexander Hamilton Rice was at one time a resident at 34 Union Park in Boston. Alexander Rice was the father of John Rice, who married Jewett's close friend Cora Clark. Key to Correspondents.

or 1885: In 1880, April 15 fell on a Thursday. With this letter is an envelope addressed to Mrs. Ellis that was cancelled on April 15, but no year appears in the cancellation. It seems unlikely that Jewett would date her letter a day later than she mailed it. Therefore, this 1880 date is uncertain. The closest year to 1880 on which April 15 falls on Wednesday is 1885. Therefore this letter is placed in both years.

Mrs. Claflin. Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mr. Parker*

South-Berwick Maine

10 June 1880

Dear Mr Parker

Thank you very much for your note which did not reach me for a day or two, as I stopped at Exeter on my way home from town.

I am much interested in the boat, though I am conscious that a less

[*Page 2*]

expensive one would "do" —

When I go to Boston again I shall be delighted to confer with you and to [*deleted word*] go adventuring to South Boston —

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Parker: Mr. Parker has not yet been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Milne Special Collections and Archives, University of New Hampshire Library, Durham, NH, USA: Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, 1849-1909 Series 1: Correspondence, MC 128b1f1.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Henry Oscar Houghton

South Berwick 12 June

[*1880*]*

Dear Mr. Houghton

Mr. Osgood* told me one day when I saw him for a few minutes that some firm in London was going to re-publish Playdays{.}* Will you tell me what firm it is? I meant to ask him more but I forgot it — I was sorry not to see you the day I went to your office — I have been ill for a long time

[*Page 2*]

and hardly went out at all during my long stay in Boston. Will you please tell Mrs. Houghton that I was sorry not to be able to see her that rainy day — and that I should certainly have returned her kind visit if I had been able to visit at all before I left — I am still far from strong, but I am getting better at last, and mean to be very quiet and lazy all summer —

[*Page 3*]

Will you please have a copy of Deephaven and one of Old Friends and New* sent to the enclosed address & charged on my account?

Yours sincerely Sarah O. Jewett

_____

The Revd P. Hately Waddell*

Glasgow — Scotland

_____

Notes

1880: This date is supported by Jewett mentioning two books currently available for her to send to Rev. Waddell. See notes below. As other letters from spring and summer of 1880 indicate, Jewett suffered a long spell of illness that year.

At the top right of page 1, under the return address and date, in blue ink and another hand: "Sarah O. Jewett". To the left of this note are letters in the same hand and ink, perhaps "cas".

Page 3 is rotated 90 degrees left. The following note is written in 3 lines up the margin, bottom left, apparently in the same hand and ink as the notes on page 1: "Sent June 15 — chg'd — Miss J. W. H. S." W.H.S. has not yet been identified.

Mr. Osgood: James Ripley Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

Playdays: *Play Days* (1878) was Jewett's collection of stories for younger children. According to WorldCat, the book was published

in London by W. Mack. This publication apparently was not dated, but it must have been no earlier than 1880.

Deephaven ... Old Friends and New: Jewett's novel, *Deephaven* (1878) and her first collection of stories for adult readers, *Old Friends and New* (near the end of 1879).

P. Hately Waddell: Peter Hately Waddell (1817-1891) was a Scottish cleric and author. How Jewett made a connection with him is not yet known.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University in Houghton Mifflin Company correspondence and records, 1832-1944, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. 68 letters from; 1870-1907 and [n.d.]. MS Am 1925 (962).

M. L. Burney* to Sarah Orne Jewett

South Berwick June 16 1880

Will Miss Jewett please accept this book for her philanthropy{?} I thought I had put a stamp on the letter to Mr Fiske* I sent for two books one for a friend{.} I should not have got any had you not have added the stamp{.}

Yours with respect

M. L. Burney

Notes

M. L. Burney: This person has not yet been identified. Possibly she was Mary Leighton Burney (1806-1883), who is buried in the Hilton Cemetery in Acton, York County, ME. The Leighton family was prominent in York County and probably known to the Jewetts in South Berwick, ME. Dr. Usher Parsons Leighton (1810-1878), Mary Burney's brother, had his practice in nearby Alfred, ME; he was a contemporary of Jewett's physician father.

Fiske: This person, presumably a bookseller, has not yet been identified.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Autograph File, B Burney M. L. A.L.s. to Sarah Orne Jewett; South Berwick, Me., 16 Jun 1880.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lillian May Munger

South Berwick

9 August, 1880*

My dear Lily

I wished to answer your letter sooner, but when it came there were several people staying here and I had just come home myself, from staying three weeks at Rye and the Isles of the Shoals. I am so glad to [tell *corrected*] you that I am really a good deal better now, though I do not believe I shall be very strong until summer is over. It was not exactly rheumatism that was the matter with me; I was

[*Page 2*]

entirely used up and at first the trouble was in my head mostly, but afterward it seemed to affect all my joints and I suffered perfect torment of pain and was very stiff and lame. The doctors in Boston said it was all caused by the weakness of the nerves and that the circulation was affected and that I needed entire change and rest &c and I should grow better as I got stronger which proved to be the case. I was really very ill at times, and it has been a pretty long stretch from December

[*Page 3*]

until now, though sometimes I have been better for awhile. I wish the air at the Shoals was nearer you so could go there for awhile for it is so peculiarly [bracing *?*]. I was there with my friend Mrs. Rice* with whom I stayed so long in Boston last winter and we were very happy together. There were a great many Boston people whom I knew, and it was very pleasant.

I hoped, until I knew it was too late that I should see you on your way home{.} I have been anxious about

[*Page 4*]

you for a good while, and I am so sorry you have been ill for so long. It is certainly an awful trick of New England girls to get used up! I resent it very much however when people say I have written too much, for I believe Miss Alcott* told me the truth the other day when she said "It is not writing: it is trying to write and to do everything else beside!" She has been through a three years siege of it, and I imagine she suffered a good deal. Now Lily dear, let's learn a lesson! We, neither of us are strong; we work

[*Page 5*]

'on our nerves' much more than with that strength, and people always get shipwrecked who do that. We will let [something's *so written*

] be crowded out and we shall do the rest our work and play all the better. I grow more and more sure that it is not doing many things, but doing things well; not doing much service but good service. I know it is hard to carry out this theory in every day life, ~~but~~ for in such lives as yours and mine one sees so many

[*Page 6*]

things to be done. But one must learn to leave them alone dear — and I believe it is after all better to ~~be~~ rest in one's work than to rest from it! I think it is the feeling of hurry and worry that takes most out of us —

My dear little girl I was very sorry when you told me you wrote me a long letter and then tore it up. Your talks about yourself never bore me and I know what a comfort

[*Page 7*]

it is to tell some one who is not a looker on about ones troubles, and discouragements — I am always glad to get your letters, and they are never too long, or too personal. I think I must have told you this before, but you never will forget it after this will you? I pray God to bless you and give you strength in body and soul — to bless you and make you a blessing, a help and a comfort and

[*Page 8*]

a pleasure wherever you are — Please give my love to your mother and remember me to Annie and Daisy* & dont forget that I am your fond and true friend

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1880: The envelope associated with this letter was cancelled on 10 August 1880. In another hand, this date is written on the front: Aug 9, 1880. It is addressed: ~~Kent's Hill~~, Old Orchard Maine. The envelope is black bordered, which usually signaled that the writer was in mourning. However, there is as yet no known reason for Jewett using this envelope.

Mrs. Rice: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Alcott: American author, Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888). In *Sarah Orne Jewett*, Paula Blanchard notes that Jewett met Alcott on the Isles of the Shoals, off Portsmouth, NH, in 1880 (pp. 66-7).

Annie and Daisy: Anna and Daisy are Munger's older sisters. See Key to Correspondents

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

[*Letterhead, upper left, of initials superimposed: SOJ*]

South Berwick

28 Aug 1880

My dear Anna

I meant to answer your letter at once though I don't think [yer *?*] desarved it being a [wretch *corrected*], but I am getting more and more lazy about writing, and since I know the less I do of it the better I have a good excuse for my laziness — I am by no means well yet — that is I do not feel at all strong and I have to be very careful. I always

[*Page 2*]

think that if I could write stories I should amuse myself and get on very well with being ill — but, as it is! —

— I have been out at the Shoals* this summer, and next time you are tired out you must go there. I never had stayed for any length of time before, and the air is magnificent and you feel so sleepy and good-natured all the time: that is, I did, and it was a great pleasure! I was at Rye {and} had

[*Page 3*]

a week also with my aunt — and now I am going to be by the sea again for two or three weeks, and I am glad enough of it —

We had a most charming visit last week (from Wednesday until Saturday,) from Mrs. ~~Ellis~~ Claflin & Mary Davenport.* I was very glad to see them and particularly glad to see Mary and hear all the news — which she was delightfully ready to tell — Mrs. C. said you ^are^ to be there in September (I think) and if so I hope I shall see you — Thank you very much

[*Page 4*]

dear Anna for your kind invitation but I am afraid it will be impossible for me to visit you this fall, though I wish I could see you in your home and on your own ground —

— I drive a good deal when it is cool enough, but I have not been ready for riding all summer, yet I hope to have some scurries by and bye{.} Write me when you can — you made me very jealous when you told me of all you were doing —

Yours most affly S.O.J.

Dont you think one day lately Elinor Norcross* turned up in Berwick and came to dine with me. She was

[*Up the left and across the top margins of page 1*]

on her way to Mt. Desert with a Miss Pitman, whose grandmother was here. It was very nice to see her again. Please give my kind remembrances to your father and mother —

Notes

Shoals: The Isles of the Shoals, off the coast of New Hampshire, near Portsmouth.

Mrs. Claflin and Mary Davenport: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

Mary Davenport probably was Mary Agnes, the daughter of Emma Ellis (Key to Correspondents).

Elinor Norcross: Almost certainly, Jewett refers to the American painter Eleanor Norcross (1854-1923). Wikipedia says "Ella Augusta Norcross, ... studied under William Merritt Chase and Alfred Stevens. She lived the majority of her adult life in Paris, France as an artist and collector and spent the summers in her hometown of Fitchburg, Massachusetts. Norcross painted Impressionist portraits and still lifes, and is better known for her paintings of genteel interiors." She founded the Fitchburg Art Museum and, in her will, made Sophia Lord Pitman (1855-1943) a trustee of the museum.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. Box 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925**.** An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes,*" Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

Little Compton R. I.*

8th September 1880

Dear Mrs. Fields

I have been wishing to tell you how much I like to think about the days I spent with you and how much I missed you after I came away, but this is not a land where it is easy to write letters. I cant help being idle — except in thought — and I think I

[*Page 2*]

never knew so quiet a country; it is all like the places one goes to on the way to sleep! There aren't any ^high^ hills but you look over the fields which are so like the moors, and you look and <u>look</u> and there is nothing you have to stop and wonder about. The big round-headed windmills are all still and today is a gray day which cant make up its mind to take the trouble to rain,

[*Page 3*]

and here we are sitting by the fireplace and I was busy watching the smoke until I thought I would write a letter or two. And whether I drive or sail I am the most placid and serene of all your friends, and I forget that I ever was a girl who couldn't get to sleep at night.

There are a great many things I wish to tell you. One is that you are going to see your Gosport church in

[*Page 4*]

<u>Harpers</u>* one of these days. I think Mr. Alden* was good natured to take it, for this makes four articles he has on hand already! I feel that you and I are partners in those verses ——

I shall be here until Saturday or Monday. I hate to think of going away — and then I am going over to Newport, as I suppose I told you, to stay with Ellen Mason* a little while. Cora and I send a great deal of love to you, and to Mr Fields and Eva.* Wont you give my affectionate regards to the handkerchief doll

[*Up the left margin and across the top of page 1*]

and be careful that nobody treads on the little teapot. There are great opportunities for making tea pots here. Eva wants one I made yesterday. It was a tall and slender one... You see I left a bit of my heart behind me in Manchester by the Sea!

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

I did not mean to write all around the corners of my

[*Up the left margin of page 3*]

letter. Good-bye and I will not do it next time and

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

I will always be your sincere & affectionate friend

[Sarah Orne Jewett *?*]

Notes

Little Compton: Why Jewett was staying in this Rhode Island resort village is unclear, though it appears she was with Cora Clark Rice.

Stamped in the upper left of page 1 is a letterhead with the initials SOJ superimposed.

windmills: There are several traditional windmills remaining in Rhode Island, two at Little Compton.

your Gosport church in Harpers: Jewett refers to her poem, "On Star Island," which appeared in *Harper's Magazine* in September 1881, almost a year after the date of this letter. Jewett and Fields had explored Gosport on Star Island in the Isles of the Shoals together in July 1880.

Mr. Alden: Henry Mills Alden. Key to Correspondents. After the date of this letter, Jewett's next story to appear in *Harpers* was "An Autumn Holiday" (October 1880). This was followed by three poems: "Two Mornings" (December 1880), "Sheltered," August 1881), and "On Star Island."

Ellen Mason: Ellen Frances Mason. Key to Correspondents.

Cora: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Mr Fields and Eva: For James T. Fields, see Annie Adams Fields in Key to Correspondents. Eva may be Eva von Blomberg, but this is not certain. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter appears in Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255). Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Annie Adams Fields transcription of a portion of the above letter in *Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett* (1911).

Little Compton, R. I., 8 *September*, 1880.

Dear Mrs. Fields, — This is not a land where it is easy to write letters. I can't help being idle, except in thought, and I think I never knew so quiet a country. It is all like the places one goes to on the way to sleep. There aren't any high hills, but you look over the fields which are so like moors, and you look and look, and there is nothing you have to stop and wonder about, the big round-headed windmills are all still, and today is a grey day which can't make up its mind to take the trouble to rain, and here we are sitting by the fireplace, and I was busy watching the smoke until I thought I would write a letter or two. And whether I drive or sail I am the most placid and serene of all your friends, and I forget that I ever was a girl who couldn't go to sleep at night.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin

Sunday afternoon

[*Late summer or Fall 1880*]*

Dear Mrs. Claflin

Thank you so much for your letter. I am ready to go any day, but I wrote Mr. Whittier* that I thought of Tuesday (you know we spoke of that day at the reception?)* If he does not want us then, we will take Friday. I would just as soon have a few days longer in town, and if you dont wish to go

[*Page 2*]

Tuesday on account of getting back for your "meetin'" on Wednesday will you please telegraph me — and I will then speak of Friday to Mr Whittier. I think very likely you have to be in town early on Wednesday and you would have to leave Bradford at break of day in that case — Your time is much more important than mine so I shall

[*Page 3*]

leave it all to you.

I have been to Concord but I didn't come in until last night so I got your letter too late to go to [Newton *?*]. Mr. Rice* would have driven me over today but it is too cold — I wish I could have seen Mrs. Stowe* again and you know how much I always wish to see you — You must not say anything about the Plymouth day*— for I had such a good time

[*Page 4*]

and wished <u>you</u> were there — I am just as likely to be tired when I have been as carefree as possible — and I might as well have a good time !! I begin to dread the winter awfully, and at present I think I shall go to Bermuda! I have given up Louisiana — ("uncertain, coy, and hard to please")*

Please give my love to Mrs. Stowe if she is still with you, and to all the rest.

Yours always most lovingly

Little Sarah.

Notes

1880: This date is speculative, but is supported by a letter to Fields of 23 November 1880, in which Jewett speaks of traveling to Bermuda. In fact, she never made this trip.

Mr. Whittier: John Greenleaf Whittier. Key to Correspondents. Whittier's home in Haverford,

MA, is across the Merrimack River from Bradford, MA.

Mr. Rice: John Hamilton and Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Stowe: Harriet Beecher Stowe. Key to Correspondents.

the Plymouth day: This reference is not yet known. It would seem likely to refer to a day spent in Plymouth, MA.

"uncertain, coy, and hard to please": This line is quoted from Sir Walter Scott's "Marmion"(1808), Canto VI, Stanza 30:

> O, Woman! in our hours of ease,
> Uncertain, coy, and hard to please,
> And variable as the shade
> By the light quivering aspen made;
> When pain and anguish wring the brow,
> A ministering angel thou! —

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J (Ac 950). .

Sarah Orne Jewett to Alexander Wilson Drake

[*Near the upper left corner of page 1 is a letterhead stamp, consisting of the initials SOJ superimposed. The address and date appear to the right of this stamp*.]*

South-Berwick

2 October 1880

Dear Mr. Drake

I write to thank you for your kindness in sending me that pass to the mountains, and for your thoughtfulness in giving us the letters and taking so much trouble for the sake of our pleasure. — I am only sorry that you and Mr. Rice* could not

[*Page 2*]

have carried out the plan we made first and I have already begun to look forward to next September at Rangeley* — — We had a most charming week at the mountains however and I should like to see you this very day to talk it over — I [must *blotted*] tell you though, how greatly I was startled and impressed by the

[*Page 3*]

the Old man of the Mountain* — I think it is the grandest thing in America! and it is hard for me to believe that so distinct a personality is only the result of seeing the ledges from a certain angle — I think it is very solemn as it looks across the country from that height = I was glad when a cloud covered

[*Page 4*]

it — and I can easily imagine that people could make a god of it —

— I am hoping to see your book* before very long, and I wish for it and for it and for yourself all manner of good fortune — and I hope too, that it will not be very long before I see you —

Yours always sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

stamp: In the upper left of page 1 appears this penciled note in another hand: "Pointed Firs".

Mr. Rice: Almost certainly John Hamilton Rice, spouse of Jewett's friend, Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Rangeley: Rangeley Lake was a resort area north of Augusta, ME.

Old man of the Mountain: The Old Man of the Mountain, also known as the Great Stone Face, was a monumental rock formation in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. When viewed from the north, it produced the appearance of the profile of a masculine face. It collapsed in 2003.

your book: Drake is not known to have published a book near the time of this letter, though he did publish poetry, prose and fiction in magazines.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Susan Minot Lane

34 Union Park — Wednesday

[*27 October 1880*]

Dear Miss Lane

I saw a young cousin of mine to day whom I wrote you about last winter. She wishes to take lessons in figure drawing, and she has started out at the Art Museum which seems to me a great piece of foolishness. This is like taking a whole college course to learn one thing and I would rather go to a studio. I thought you might be able to tell her

[*Page 2*]

about it a little and I should take it as a very great kindness to me if you would. I told her to write and ask if she could see you.

I do wish very much to see you. I have been in this region & in Little Compton and Newport making visits for some weeks [but *corrected*] I have not been in Boston (except for one night). I am only

[*Page 3*]

here for a day or two now, (at Mrs. Rice's* where I saw you last spring —) I am not well yet and I dread the winter a good deal — in fact I think I must go away soon after Christmas and I hate to think of it. I [would *corrected*] so much rather stay at home. I shall try to see you before I go home —

Yours always most affly

Sarah O. Jewett

[*Page 4*]

later

I just thought that I didn't send my love to Miss Baker* but I always feel as if I were writing to you both.! — I wonder if you saw An Autumn Holiday* in the October Harper? I hope [*deleted word*] you will like it — it was one of the last things I wrote last year —

Notes

1880: An envelope accompanying the manuscript is postmarked October 28; the letter probably was composed the day before on Wednesday 27 October. The year is indicated by Jewett's reference to her newly published story, "An Autumn Holiday."

Mrs. Rice's: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Baker: Charlotte Alice Baker. Key to Correspondents.

An Autumn Holiday: "An Autumn Holiday" first appeared in *Harper's Magazine*, October 1880,

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, S. O. Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Eben Norton Horsford

South Berwick

15 Nov 1880

Dear Prof. Horsford

I was so very glad to get your kind letter today — only it makes me wish so much to see you and your household that I am quite homesick! I did get your letter from Loch Katrine and I asked Lilian for your address, but she was wicked and never sent it to me, so I never wrote to you — but I thought of you and Kate and Cornelia*

[*Page 2*]

often enough, if I did not say so! I have not got well yet, but I have been better the last week or two than for a good while before and so I have great hopes of myself! and I shall be the happiest girl in the world if I can write again by and by and go back to my old tracks. I was so miserable all summer that I hate to think of myself and indeed I am not very strong yet. I was

[*Page 3*]

in Belmont and Newport and Roxbury, and I also made Mrs. Claflin a little visit in September, but I spent a good deal of time on the sofa and could not go about much, or I should certainly have seen Mrs. Horsford and Lilian —

I am so glad you had such a pleasant journey — (I only wish I had been with you!) and I shall hope to hear all about it this winter, beside seeing the pictures! Please give my love to all [the family *written over something*] and thank you so much for writing to me —

Yours sincerely S. O. J.

Notes

Loch Katrine ... Lilian ... Kate and Cornelia: John W. Willoughby notes that this letter follows a trans-Atlantic trip by part of the Horsford family.

He identifies the members of the Horsford family: first wife, Mary L'Hommedieu Gardiner, and four daughters: "Mary Leila ("Lilian," 1848-1928, who married the renowned biologist William G. Farlow in 1900), Mary Katherine ("Kate," 1850-1926, who did not marry), Gertrude Hubbard ("Trudie," 1852-1920, who married Andrew Fiske in 1878), and Mary Gardiner ("Mamie," 1855-1893, who married Benjamin Robbins Curtis, son of the Supreme Court Justice, in 1877)." With his second wife, Phoebe, Professor Horsford had another daughter: "Cornelia Conway Felton (1861-1944), who did not marry."

Loch Katrine is a popular scenic attraction in the south-western highlands of Scotland.

Belmont and Newport and Roxbury, ... Mrs. Claflin: Rather than attending the Belmont Stakes in June, when she probably was too ill, Jewett probably means that she has visited William Dean Howells at Redtop in Belmont, MA. Newport, RI was a popular resort town in the Gilded Age. It is not yet known why she would visit in Roxbury, MA.

Mary Claflin was married to the former Massachusetts governor, William Claflin. In 1880, he was representing Massachusetts in Congress. Their home was in Newtonville, MA. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Fales Library and Special Collections, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University. Sylvester Manor Archive 1649-1996, MSS.208, IV: Horsford Family, Box 63: Folder 41. Jewett, Sarah Orne: Maine & Massachusetts.

This letter was published in John W. Willoughby, "Sarah Orne Jewett and Her Shelter Island: Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett and Annie Fields to Eben Norton Horsford," *Confrontation* (Long Island University) 8 (1974): 72-86. New transcription and notes.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

[*16 November 1880*]*

My dearest: I cannot tell you with what joy I read & read your precious letter last night, & heard that Lily* was with you, & all you had to tell of your book* & Aldrich* &c. Is the book fairly launched? How I long to see it! I am sorry if the cover isn't all you wish, but I dare say you may like it better eventually.*

17th So busy, so busy, Annie! John* goes to town tomorrow & will take this. The days are flying away & I shall soon see your dear beautiful face, I hope. I have got more than enough work to fill to the brim every moment between now & the 30th. I am so very anxious to get at my painting, when all is done.

Dear, I'm so glad you heard Mr. Brooks!* I'm sure it was good.

I hear from Mina with Miss Howes.* She seems to think she is in the Arabian nights* — You dont know how miserably Mrs De Normandie* is — I am very anxious about her — her head is in such a desperate condition — She went to N.Y. last week to consult with some physician who makes her trouble a specialty, but he could do nothing for her. — I had a dear letter from Sarah Jewett* today.

I send Lowes Dickinson's* nice letter. I had told him in my note wh. he acknowledges in this, that I hoped to be at least part of the Winter, with you. How glad I am his wife is better! I know you are too, dearest heart.

I send my everlasting love & I am

your

S.P.*

Notes

16 November 1880: The date *Nov. 16, '81*, in another hand, appears in the upper right of page 1. However, the letter almost certainly anticipates Fields's *Under the Olive*, which appeared late in 1880. Unless the person supplying this date had access to external evidence for the approximate date of this letter, it would seem to belong in 1880.

Lily: Fields and Thaxter share several acquaintances name Lily. Possibly this is Lily Bowditch. Dr. Henry Ingersoll Bowditch (1808-1892), owned a cottage on Appledore; his wife, Olivia Jane Yardley (1816 - 10 December 1890), regularly spent part of her summer there.

your book: In *Annie Adams Fields* (2002), Rita Gollin notes that Fields's *Under the Olive* (Copyright 1881) appeared in November of 1880 (p. 202).

Aldrich: Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

eventually: The opening paragraph is in pencil. The remainder of the manuscript is in ink.

John: Thaxter's son. Key to Correspondents.

Brooks: Phillips Brooks. Key to Correspondents.

Mina with Miss Howes: Mina may be Thaxter's friend, Mina Berntsen, who is mentioned often in *Letters of Celia Thaxter* (1895). See also Norma Mandel, *Beyond the Garden Gate* pp. 80-3.

Howes families in the Boston area were prominent in the late 19th century, appearing in the social register and in newspapers. Osborne Howes of Brookline was a well-known journalist during this period. The identity of this Miss Howes has not been discovered.

the Arabian nights: *One Thousand and One Nights* is a collection of Middle Eastern folk tales, first published in English in the early 18th century.

Mrs De Normandie: For many years, 47 State Street Portsmouth, NH was the winter residence of Oscar Laighton, his sister Celia and her son Karl Thaxter. Laighton purchased the house from Emily. F. de Normandie (1836-1924) in April 1887. Her husband was a Unitarian minister, James de Normandie (1836-1924). See *Men of Progress* p. 360.

Sarah Jewett: Sarah Orne Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Lowes Dickinson's: It seems likely that Thaxter refers to the British portrait painter, Lowes Cato Dickinson (1819-1908). His wife was Margaret Ellen Williams. According to Martha Shannon in *Boston Days of William Morris Hunt* (1923),

Dickinson visited the Fields's home in Boston during 1875, and became interested in the work of American painter, William Morris Hunt (1824-1879), friend and mentor of Celia Thaxter (pp. 112-15).

S.P. This transcription is uncertain, but probably Thaxter refers to a nickname she uses in her correspondence with Jewett and Fields, Sandpiper. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 1 (148-173).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Oak Knoll 11th - 19th - 1880

Dear Mrs Fields

I am reading "Under the Olive"* with a mingled feeling of [admiration *corrected*] & surprise. The book is steeped in the sweet, solemn atmosphere of the days of the Greek gods, but of that lovely old phase of Spiritualism which found a life in all forms & forces of Nature. The old myths come from thy hands clothed in chrystal purity — in the "white samite" of Tennyson's heroines.* I like especially "Persephone", "Aphrodite of Melos," "The Lantern of Sestos"

[*Page 2*]

"Artemis," & "Theocritus{.}"

I see occasional defects — I don't always like the great regularity of the versification — but a genuine poetic feeling pervades all. We, old versifiers, can do no less than welcome thee to our guild, and stand uncovered in thy presence. I predict for thy book [very *?*] great success. Nothing can add to the love and respect of those who have the great privilege of thy friendship, but we shall have one more reason for our pride in thee.

Always & very heartily

thy frd

John G. Whittier

Notes

"Under the Olive": Fields's first collection of poems, published in 1881. In the poems Whittier mentions, he has shortened the title of "The Return of Persephone."

"white samite" of Tennyson's heroines: See British poet, Alfred, Lord Tennyson's (1809-1892) "Morte d'Arthur," where Arthur recalls receiving his sword, Excalibur, from an arm that

> Rose up from out the bosom of the lake,
> Clothed in white samite, mystic, wonderful,
> Holding the sword....

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 70-4754.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

23 November 1880*

South-Berwick

Dear Mrs. Fields

I think your book* is the dearest book I ever saw! I don't know that it is polite to speak of the cover first, but it is so pretty! And inside I am so glad to find again — "the flight of gold through hollow woodlands driven"* — which has always had a great charm for me. When could I have seen Theocritus?* — but I remember now — in a newspaper and

[*Page 2*]

afterward in the book where it belonged, — a no name book, wasn't it? — I find so many things as I look through pages, that I linger over and wish I were not in a hurry to write you, so I might read in peace! I shall be very fond of the little book for its own sake and also for yours, and [many *corrected*] a line will seem as if it were spoken and not written to me, and bring back other things — that you have said and I like to remember — And

[*Page 3*]

I do think you were very good to send me Under the Olive — I know how many friends you have, — [but *corrected*] I take it, as I know you will let me, as a sign of something that is between us, and since we have hold of each others hands [we *corrected*] will not let them go. ——

— Indeed I should hate the idea of going to Bermuda all alone and I do not mean to do that doleful thing, and now that I seem to be better I can stay longer in this region — It will be not only a necessity

[*Page 4*]

but a great pleasure to be where it is warmer in the early spring — and so I shall make up my mind to go away at any rate. But before that I do hope to be in Boston again and I should like dearly to make you a little visit though I am afraid I could not carry out the kind and thoughtful plan which you make for the whole month — And we will play with each other

whenever we have a chance, and talk about the rose tea set — and find time every day for one handkerchief doll at least —

With kindest regards to Mr. Fields

Yours most affectionately

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1880: Near the upper left corner, to the left of "South-Berwick," appears a decoration consisting of the initials SOJ superimposed.

book: Fields's first collection of poems, *Under the Olive* (1881), became available near the end of 1880.

"the flight of gold ...": The line is from Fields's poem, "Theocritus" in *Under the Olive*.

Theocritus: An early Greek poet who flourished in the third century BCE, best remembered for his poems about country life.

to Bermuda: Though Jewett speculates about traveling to Bermuda in other letters of this time, she never made the trip.

handkerchief doll: A handkerchief doll may be handcrafted from a handkerchief.

This manuscript is held by The Morgan Library and Museum: Record ID: 193456. Accession number: MA 3943. An earlier transcription appears in Nancy Ellen Carlock's 1939 Boston University thesis, *S.O.J. A Biography of Sarah Orne Jewett*. A partial transcription also appears in *The Gentle Americans* (1965) by Helen Howe. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lyman Abbott

[*1880 - 1881*]*

Dear Dr. Abbott,

I send some verses* which I think you may be ^able to^* use in your young peoples department. Can I have an answer at once at Mrs. Claflin's,* Newtonville.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

1880 - 1881: As indicated below, nearly all of Jewett's known publications in *The Christian Union* appeared in 1880-1881. As these include no poems addressed to children, however, it is not yet possible to date this letter more precisely. A letter to Mrs. Claflin tentatively dated Friday Afternoon 1878 suggests that Jewett may have met Mr. Abbott as early as 1878.

verses: No Jewett poems for young people are known to have appeared in *The Christian Union*, where Abbott was editor. The magazine did publish two Jewett poems, both of which were "love" poems: "A Night in June" (July 1880) and "A Day's Secret" (January 1881). Jewett placed one other piece with Abbott, "The Quiet Scholar" (August 1881).

able to: This insertion appears to have been added in pencil, and it may not be in Jewett's hand.

Mrs. Claflin's: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

This manuscript of this letter is held by Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College Library, in the Miscellaneous Manuscripts Collection.

1881

Sarah Orne Jewett — Fragment of a Letter

[*c. early 1881*]*

I amused myself when I was coming home in the train last night by watching, and wondering about two old ladies in black who sat before me. They were very interesting and I wished for you{.} They seemed to recognise 'the scenery' [once *corrected*] in a while, and I think they must have been going up in the country ~~where~~ back to the place where they ~~came from~~ ^lived^ when they were children, & I imagined their only finding a few people whom they used to know & staying with some niece or distant cousin and thinking how different it used to be & having rather a disappointed lonely visit after all. I was prepared [to be *corrected*] very kind to them and help them with their bundles & shawls if they left the cars at Eliot, but they remained seated. They were not particularly well dressed & not at all used to travelling & looked as if they had

[*Page 2*]

"seen better days ^& much care & trouble^" but they chattered away energetically to each other & looked as if a great deal had happened to them & they could tell me surprising stories [if they liked *?*]{.} Yet I dare say they were the most commonplace old persons in the world —

Notes

The manuscript of this sketch is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 - II. Letters

from Sarah Orne Jewett, Unidentified, recipient. 21 letters and fragments. Box 7, item 279.

It is difficult not to associate this piece with "Miss Becky's Pilgrimage," for the language here so clearly echoes that of the 2nd paragraph of Jewett's story, which appeared in *The Independent* of 1 September 1881. If this is indeed a seed for that story, then she very likely composed this memory earlier that year.

While this reads a good deal like a reflection that led to a story, Jewett clearly had a reader in mind when she said "I wished for you." If written in 1881, before the Jewett-Fields friendship blossomed, this piece probably was not intended for Fields, and one is left to speculate about which of her correspondents she would have wished for.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lillian May Munger

South Berwick

9 Jan 1881

My dear Lily

Thank you for your nice long letter and for the pretty Christmas card. I heard from Mrs. Rice,* who went to see you a day or two after you left — that you had gone to Millbury* and I was sure you had some good reason for it, but I was glad to have you tell me yourself. I think you did just right but I can understand that

[*Page 2*]

it was in some ways a hard thing to do. I am sure you will be glad — and that you will really gain more than you lost and that the rest of the Boston winter will come some other time — But I am going to beg you again and again! not to do too much, and to put [your *corrected*] whole heart into the necessary things but not to feel that you must use all your spare time in studying. I think leisure is very necessary to growth. I have become more and more sure of it. Sometimes an

[*Page 3*]

hour of idleness is a very great help, not only because it is a rest, but because thoughts come to one — that in intent and careful work are crowded out — And a restless character is never restful, you know, and I think a quiet self-contained person in whom strength and repose ^of character^ are both marked traits, is a very helpful person. American life is such a hurry and drive that it {is} a blessed thing to find somebody once and awhile who rests <u>in</u> her work, and so very seldom has to take a rest <u>from</u> it! You asked me

[*Page 4*]

to speak to Mr. Hobbs* about the academy but I never have happened to see him — In some ways I think very well of your coming here — but in others I dont. I think there would be a good deal of [a risk*?*] about it — the school is an uncertain one. And in the last few years it has been chiefly made up of boys. I dont doubt myself that you and your friend would make a success of it in two years perhaps, but it would be a great deal better to find a school that was ready to your hand and did not

[*Page 5*]

have to be 'built up' — Still there is a fund, and it is a question I am not fit to decide or advise upon anyway. Mr. Lord* seems to have done ~~very~~ very well. I dont know whether he will leave at the end of this year or not. <u>I</u> should like to have you here. ——

Miss Cushing* told me how much she enjoyed that morning with you. I think you gave as much pleasure as you had. I hope you will go to see her when you are in town again. She is quite troubled because she forgot to give you her card — but she lives at

[*Page 6*]

No. 8 Walnut St. —— I think it is very good {for} you to go to Mrs. Sargents* just to see the people and sometimes the lectures are charming — — I am pulling through the winter here as best I can, but I am not well at all. I dont dare to go South, for I seem to have had a touch of malaria these last two years, and I am as well off here as anywhere. I have a great deal else to say, my dear little girl, but I shall have to end this letter — and I put in it the most loving good wishes for you and I hope and believe that this will be the happiest and best year of your life — God bless you always —

Yours most affly

S. O. Jewett

[*Up the left margin of page 1*]

Your sister Annie* sent me a lovely C— card — It was a branch of holly.

Notes

Mrs. Rice: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Millbury: Munger taught for 3 years at the Millbury, MA High School, from about 1879 to 1882. An envelope associated with this letter is addressed to "Care Rev. C. Munger, Farmington, Maine."

Mr. Hobbs ... the academy: Hiram H. Hobbs was secretary of the trustees of the Berwick Academy from 1846-1883, and was succeeded by his son Charles C. Hobbs from 1893 to 1913 (*Old Academy on the Hill*, Marie Donahue). Hiram H. Hobbs (1802-1884, according to *South Berwick Maine Record Book*, the 1967 cemetery guide by John Eldridge Frost) married a descendant of Thomas and Elizabeth Wallingford, whose family are models for characters in *The Tory Lover*. In "The Old Town of Berwick," Jewett describes Hiram Hobbs as "a tall, fine figure of a man just in the prime of his activity, and one of the most useful and careful secretaries and trustees of the academy during many years."

Mr. Lord: It is very difficult to be certain which Mr. Lord Jewett would report upon among the many in the South Berwick area or associated with the academy. This Mr. Lord, it appears, held a position of responsibility at the Berwick Academy at the time of this letter.

Miss Cushing: While this could be Elizabeth Cushing (6 October 1797- 5 October 1889), Jewett's neighbor in South Berwick, the 8 Walnut Street address is in Boston, making this Miss Cushing a neighbor of Jewett correspondent Grace Gordon's family at 5 Walnut. Probably, then, this is Alice Kirke Cushing (1859-1918). She was the daughter of Henry Kirke Cushing and Elizabeth/Betsey Maria Williams. Her brother was the famous neurosurgeon, Harvey Williams Cushing (1869-1939). Alice Cushing never married and continued living with her parents. However, Alice Cushing's parents were living at 786 Prospect Street in 1903; whether they resided at the Walnut Street address earlier has not been confirmed. Miss Cushing is described as "Shy and somewhat austere, [with]... an active mind." She read widely in history and literature and became an authority on English church architecture. See also *Harvey Cushing: A Biography* (1946) by John F. Fulton.

Mrs. Sargent's: This may be Mary Elizabeth Fiske Sargent (1827-1904). She became the second wife of John Turner Sargent (1807-1877), a prominent Unitarian minister, remembered for his support of abolition and woman suffrage. Together they founded Boston's Radical Club (1867-1880). She edited *Sketches of the Radical Club of Chestnut Street, Boston*. See *Letters of John Greenleaf Whittier* v. 1, p. 194n.

sister Annie: Anna R. Munger was one of Lily's older sisters.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Adams Fields

South Berwick

12 January 1881

Dear Mrs. Fields

I hope you do not think that I am very rude for indeed I didn't mean to be! When I saw you I thought I should be in Boston again by the middle of this month, but I find I must put off my cruise until later. I think it is, to say the least, distressing to have a guest give warning of her coming from time to time!

[*Page 2*]

and I hope I am not a dead weight on your mind and that I shall not interfere with your plans —

I am looking forward with the greatest pleasure to being with you for a few days, and I hope you will let me come by and by and play that it is still January — the time when you asked me to come.

We do not like to leave my mother alone in winter, it is so

[*Page 3*]

very lonely for her, and just now my sister Mary* is going to town for a little while — first to Cora Rice's —* She is going to have a very good time I hope, for though I shall miss her dreadfully I cant help remembering how much oftener I give her a chance to miss me! And in one way, I think she minds being in Berwick in winter more than I do.

Your Under the Olive* is always more and more of a pleasure to me, and I read the notices

[*Page 4*]

of it as eagerly as possible. I wonder if you have seen one in the N.Y. Christian Union* which I saw by chance a day or two ago? I wish to thank you all over again for the pleasure the book has given me. Ellen ^Mason!!^* wrote me that you sent a copy to her —

Will you believe that I do wish very much to see you and I am always yours affectionately.

S. O. J.

Notes

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Cora Rice: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Under the Olive: Fields's collection of poems, *Under the Olive*, appeared in 1881.

N. Y. Christian Union: An advertisement for *Under the Olive* in *Christian Union* 22, (24 November 1880, p. 460) said: "A beautiful volume of lyrical and dramatic poems mostly on noble or romantic subjects in Grecian history and legend. They show not only great familiarity with Greek literature, but a rare sympathy with the modes of Greek thought and expression which have made that literature the admiration of the world." A review in the same issue, (p. 449) said: "Mrs. Annie Fields, the author of the new Boston book of poetry, "Under the Olive," is the wife of Mr. James T. Fields, ex-publisher and now lecturer. Mrs. Fields has done something in verse in the past, but the coming of this book was a genuine surprise. It is a collection of Greek verses of a very difficult sort to write, and perhaps there is nothing in the collection better than the Apostrophe to Theocritus, which was printed in the 'No Name' volume of poetry a year or two since."

Ellen Mason: Ellen Frances Mason. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter appears in Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Annie Fields (Adams) 1834-1915, recipient. 194 letters; 1877-1909 & [n.d.] Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (255). Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lyman Abbott

[*20 January 1881*]

[*Stamped letterhead of initials SOJ superimposed*].*

Dear Mr. Abbott

I send you with this a sketch* which I hope you will like & can use. I tried to give a little lesson in it — by making two girls very pleasant to their old schoolmate for one thing! In case you keep it, do you think I [could *corrected*] see the proofs? I know it is not always convenient in a weekly publication and so I will not insist, but

[*Page 2*]

I always like to look them over if I can — If you mailed the proofs one afternoon I should get them next morning & you would have them back the next —

Yours sincerely

Sarah Orne Jewett

South-Berwick

20 Jan. 1881

Notes

superimposed: In the upper left corner of this page appears the numeral "3," presumably in another hand.

sketch: "A Quiet Scholar" appeared in *The Christian Union* on 17 August 1881. See Jewett to Abbott of 9 February 1881.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, Brunswick, ME. A photocopy is in the Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, Series 1 (M238.1): Correspondence, 1877-1905, n.d. The original is in the Lyman Abbott Autograph Collection (M1.8).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Henry Oscar Houghton

South Berwick

2nd February.

[*1881*]

My dear Mr. Houghton

Thank you very much for you kindness and I beg first to apologize for not having written again to Mrs. Houghton, but there was really nothing to write! until I knew something about my plans. My sister has been in Boston for three weeks and I have to wait for her return to settle upon

[*Page 2*]

my time for going away — As for Bermuda,* I am taking up that plan again with renewed interest and determination for I find the winter weather has told upon me a good deal already, and hard as it is to make up my mind to go away so far from home, I think it is the only thing that is right to do — I do not wish to go quite so soon as the tenth* = indeed I

[*Page 3*]

think it would be hardly possible — but I have a friend in Providence* who will go at any time I do, so I should have company on the voyage. We planned when we talked it over that we were to be consigned to Mrs. Eames* who is an old friend of my friend's mother, and who has spent a great many springs in Bermuda. She goes down on the 10th* and I had already heard of Dr. Davidson though Mrs. Ellis* who

[*Page 4*]

promised to let my sister know as soon as she found out about his plans. I tell you all this since

you are taking so kind an interest and it seems to me now that I probably shall start a fortnight from the 10th with Miss Chafee* and in the meantime I shall spend a few days in Boston. I wish you would thank [Dr. *corrected*] Davidson for his kind offer that I might join his party and, I shall hope to see him and his daughter there if I do not go down with them.

Yrs. sincerely Sarah O Jewett

Notes

1881: This date is speculative, based upon letters to Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin, dated from the autumn of 1880 and to Annie Adams Fields of 23 November 1880, in which Jewett speaks of going to Bermuda.

Bermuda: Jewett is not known to have traveled to Bermuda, but she spoke of plans to make a stay in the fall of 1880.

tenth: This word may be underlined.

10th: Jewett has corrected the number. It probably reads as transcribed, but it could be 11th.

Mrs. Eames: The Eames name is prominent in Rhode Island, in business and in politics. Benjamin Tucker Eames (1818-1901) served several terms in Congress. His wife was Laura Southwick Chapin (1824-1872). Benjamin Tucker's son, Waldo Chapin Eames (1859-1894) married Laura A Hoppin in 1887. While it is possible that Jewett refers to Laura Eames, this would be possible only if the date of the letter is after 1887.

Dr. Davidson ... Mrs. Ellis: Emma Harding Claflin Ellis. Key to Correspondents.

Dr. Davidson and his daughter have not been identified.

Miss Chafee: Assuming that this transcription is correct, Miss Chafee remains unidentified. Chafee is a well-known name in Rhode Island.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes

South Berwick

7 February 1881

My dear Anna

If I had not wished to write to you so much I should have sent you a letter long ago = every day I scurry off notes and letters — but it seems to me I find less and less time for the letters I used to take such pleasure in. Dont you know too, that every day there are things that must be done at once — and so one lets the dearest things be sometimes crowded out by the things one would not have missed — And then, all

[*Page 2*]

this long last year I have been in such wretched health that only a person who has had the same experience will know how to pity me! There have been so many cares and responsibilities that it was hard to neglect and I do think the physical pain and suffering is really the least evil of a long illness. Yet I can truly say that this has been the happiest and most satisfactory year of my life — and I thank God that I can say so. I shall have to go away this spring I am afraid. I am better than I was a few months

[*Page 3*]

ago, but by no means strong, and the severe weather has upset me a good deal. I dont dare risk being here through the spring which always tires me most — and it would involve my dragging about all next summer as I did this last one — more dead than alive! And I do wish to be well for the sake of my writing — and I wish to be everything that is possible to my friends — for I feel as if lately I had been a drag to them instead of the help and comfort and pleasure I [*deletion*] always mean to be if I can — Dont

[*Page 4*]

you think it is a very great help to be obliged to stop in ones life for a while as I have? One sees everything so much more clearly, and I think I am going to write better and live better for this lesson — It has been like keeping a great Lent for ones next five years.

I thought [when *corrected*] I knew of your father's re-election I would congratulate you at once — (I mean your father & you for his sake) but though I am late about it I am none the less sincere — I think I can understand that you were [*deletion*] very glad about it and in one way

[*Page 5*]

a little sorry too, for your self — I think one is apt to plan ones life better than it turns out — but when we look back we are pretty sure to [aquiesce *so spelled*], and I know that your society life will count for a great deal more in your eyes one day than it does now. There seems to be a good deal that there is no use in, but perhaps we are carried through long roads that seem stupid so that we may reach one point we would not have missed for anything — and if

we [*deletion*] ^were^ not looking forward to it, we always look back gladly —

[*Page 6*]

I had a lesson that I shall never forget one day last summer — I was mourning over my enforced idleness and somebody quietly told me that if I had not done anything else, I had been such a help to her and made her life seem different. It was half unconscious — I thought she had helped me, but it flashed through my mind that if I had been well I should not have been with her then — and I saw that God had been using me, and I was so rejoiced and glad that I would have given up a great deal ~~to~~ more, rather than miss hearing her

[*Page 7*]

say what she did. We only know one side of our lives, do we? and it startles us to remember once in a while that God is doing his part for us ^and with us,^ beside our doing our own —

= I should like so much to have you here this afternoon. Mother is going out to dine with my sister, and Mary* is in Boston so I dine alone and how we would chatter if we were together, and perhaps you would like to have the wish on your dear little Christmas card "come true", as well as I should. I should like to hear what is going on in Washington

[*Page 8*]

and I have no doubt you are crazy to hear the Berwick news —

Please remember me to your father and mother and dont forget that I am always your sincere and affectionate friend

Sarah O. Jewett

I heard in a round about way the other day that Ella and Mr. Little* have gone to Cuba. Mary has been in Boston for a month and I feel as if I were an only child!

Notes

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Ella ... Mr. Little: Ella Walworth Little. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Library of Congress, in the Henry L. Dawes papers, 1833-1933. Box 32, Dawes, Anna Laurens, her correspondence and other papers, 1850-1925. An annotated transcription appears in C. Carroll Hollis, "Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett to Anna Laurens Dawes," *Colby Library Quarterly* No. 3 (1968): 97-138. New transcription and notes.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lyman Abbott

South-Berwick Maine

9 February 1881

Dear Dr. Abbott -

Thank you for your note just received and I am glad I may see the proofs — Thank you also for the check. I always like best for the editor to settle the question of the worth of an article.

— I believe that sketch* would make about seven magazine pages, and when

[*Page 2*]

I am asked I say ten dollars a page. I do not think that is out of reason, for one magazine always sends me twelve - [*deletion*] your check gives me less, — about six dollars a page — but if you do not give more than that usually of course I would not ask for an exception to be made for me.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

sketch: "A Quiet Scholar" appeared in *The Christian Union* on 17 August 1881.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, Brunswick, ME. A photocopy is in the Sarah Orne Jewett Papers, Series 1 (M238.1): Correspondence, 1877-1905, n.d. The original is in the Lyman Abbott Autograph Collection (M1.8).

William Dean Howells to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*25 February 1881*]*

Dear Miss Jewett:

[*Unrecognized word* Aldrich *?*] will be delighted of course to see your sketch. I have now no right to consider it, but there can be no question as to his wish.

Yours sincerely,

W. D. Howells.

28 [Brimmer *?*] st.

Feb. 25, 1881.

Notes

1881: Howells's handwriting is uncertain when he dates this letter at the end. It could as easily be 1880 as 1881. However, in 1881, editorship of *Atlantic Monthly* changed from Howells to Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Key to Correspondents. Though this also is unclear, it seems likely that Howells names Aldrich at the beginning of the letter, and his deferring to Aldrich regarding Jewett's MS would suggest that the editorial transition has just taken place.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Howells, William Dean, 1837-1920. 16 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett; 1875-1908. Sarah Orne Jewett correspondence, 1861-1930. MS Am 1743 (105).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Susan Hayes Ward

The Brunswick*

New York — Friday

[February 1881]*

Dear Susy Ward

I am here for a very few days and I went to your friend Mrs. Watson's* this morning to see if you might chance to be in town, &

[*Page 2*]

I heard that you were planning to come in tomorrow — If it is to be in the morning and you are anywhere in this neighbourhood I wish that you would be so kind as to come and see me — ^ I shall be here between 10 & 10:30 or eleven o'clock certainly.^ Me and also Mrs. Fields!*

[*Page 3*]

I have not time to get out to see you and dear Hetta* and I hated to ask you to come in on purpose, but I make bold on the score of Mrs. Watson's knowing your plans.

With love to you both.

Yours ever affectionately,

S. O. Jewett

Notes

The Brunswick: There apparently were two possible hotels in which Jewett may have stayed, the Brunswick Hotel at 17 - 19 East 27th Street and the Hotel Brunswick at 1236 Madison Avenue. It is not yet known at which Jewett stayed.

1881: Cary's rationale for this date is not known. It may not be correct, for it seems unlikely that Jewett and Fields would be staying together in a New York Hotel in the winter before the death of James T. Fields.

Mrs. Watson: The identity of Mrs. Watson is as yet unknown.

Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

Hetta: Hetta Lord Hayes Ward (1842-1921), sister of Susan and William. Cary says that Hetta Ward "reported on architecture, exhibitions of painting, the applied and domestic arts for the *Independent*, as well as publishing delightful stories and verses for children."

This letter is held by Colby College Special Collections, Waterville, Maine: JEWE.1. It was originally transcribed, edited and annotated by Richard Cary for *Sarah Orne Jewett Letters*. New transcription and notes.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Danvers 3d Mo 7 1881

My dear friend

I am very sorry to hear that dear J.T.F.* is ill. I hope he is in the way of recovery, and if he is only comfortably sick he ought, as the country folks say, to {be *?*} "crying poor health" with such a nurse as he has. Do let me know how he is getting on, when thee can find leisure to write a

[*Page 2*]

~~write~~ [a *repeated*] line. I want to go to Boston but have not felt equal to it, as I am feeling the effects of the long winter's cold & confinement. We are just getting out from under snow-drifts 8 feet high, and the sight here & there of Mother Earth, is delightful. With a great deal of love to thy patient I am most truly thy friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

J.T.F.: Fields's husband, the publisher James T. Fields, died on 24 April 1881. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 70-4739.

Louise Chandler Moulton to Sarah Orne Jewett

28 Rutland Square

March 19 — 1881 —*

My dear Miss Jewett —

I can find no words with which fitly to thank you for your glorious roses. If I could but holler I would sing them and you into immortality. As it is, I can only hold you and them in my heart. I was saying to Professor Longfellow* this morning that you seemed to me like a deep-hearted flower —

[*Page 2*]

and now you have sent me your sisters, and I see again how much like you they are.

I looked out for you, before breakfast, the English edition of my verses,* — and I send them to you with my love, because I know that there is so much of myself in them they may help us to that better acquaintance for which I long. I am — if you will let me say so —

Yours affectionately —

Louise Chandler Moulton.

Notes

1881: At the bottom left of this page in pencil is a circled numeral: 1.

Longfellow: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Key to Correspondents.

verses: Moulton's *Swallow-Flights* was published in London in 1878.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 162. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Louise Chandler Moulton to Sarah Orne Jewett

Monday morning —

[*About 21 March 1881*]*

Thank-you for your lovely and loving note. It went straight to my heart, as you have done from the first, and as so few people do any more that I sometimes think the way must be choked. Thanks, too, for your sonnet,* which meant so much to me. It is strange that people call sonnets the most artificial forms of verse. To me they are the most natural expression of the most intimate feeling, and I see from your easy

[*Page 2*]

mastery of the form that you must feel about them as I do. I want to give you my address for the time to come — because if it should ever happen that you felt like saying a word to me I should want you to know where to find me. I don't think letters that one undertakes to write are worth much, and perhaps neither your nor I are strong enough to do much letter writing — but I want to feel that you know were I am — It seems a kind of warrant that I shall find you again sometime, and I want to

[*Page 3*]

find you again. For one week from Wednesday next I shall be in Pomfret, Conn. — Then, from March 31st until April 7th, at 36 East 39th Street, New York City — and after April 7th letters sent to me Care of Brown, Shipley & Co. (Bankers) London, England, will be sure to [*deletion*] reach me. I have half a feeling that I could say good bye to you more contentedly if I could but have had a little more of you — but I am not sure, after all,

[*Page 4*]

that it would not have made my adieu yet more regretful. I am sure that I shall come back to Boston far more willingly for the hope of finding you here some good day.

Yours Faithfully —

L.C.M

Notes

1881: This date is speculative. I have associated this letter with two others from March 1881, in which Moulton and Jewett appear to be forging a new friendship, which proceeds in part by exchanging some of their recent writing, this letter referring to a Jewett sonnet.

There is some rationale for placing this letter with the others of March 1881. It was written in March. All of Jewett's published sonnets appeared between 1878 and 1881, three of them in January and February of 1881. It seems clear that most of her work with this form comes from this time in her career.

At the bottom left of page 1 in pencil is a circled numeral: 3.

sonnet: Jewett's published sonnets include: a pair published as "Verses" (1878), "A Day's Secret" (January 1881), and a pair published as "Two Musicians" (February 1881).

In the Louise Chandler Moulton papers of the Library of Congress is a manuscript sonnet: "Why do I love you?" This poem later appeared in John E. Frost's *Sarah Orne Jewett* (1960), p. 116.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 162. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*26 March 1881**]

Pincess* is well thank you – but lazy. We are well also. Mother sat up until late last night reading the Fair Barbarian.* Don't you think it is a pretty book? I spent yesterday at Caddie's.* Mrs. Doe* couldn't come to dine. Neither could Annie Barker.* So I was the only guest Mother having declined. It is so windy & raw that we are better off in the house than out doors. So we do not go to dine at all hardly. There is not any news to tell this morning that I can think of. We will look out for the picture. I haven't been horseback yet on account of the wind. Pincess & Kate had new shoes yesterday in preparation for that Event!

My love to all & yrs affly M. R. J.

Sat. a.m.

Notes

1881: This letter is written on a postal card, cancelled on 26 March 1881.

Pincess: Presumably a family pronunciation for Princess, one of their horses. Another horse, Kate, is named at the end of the note.

Fair Barbarian: *A Fair Barbarian* (1881) is a novel by British-American novelist and playwright, Frances Hodgson Burnett (1849-1924). Burnett is best remembered for her children's novels, *Little Lord Fauntleroy* (1886) and *The Secret Garden* (1911).

Caddie's: Caroline Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Doe: Edith Bell Haven Doe. Key to Correspondents.

Annie Barker: Annie Barker was a South Berwick neighbor about whom rather little is known. In Mary Rice Jewett's 1892 letters to her sister while Sarah Orne Jewett was traveling in Europe, she reported regularly about Caroline March Barker (1833- 16 April 1892). According to Find a Grave, buried in the same cemetery in Rochester, NH, with Caroline Barker, is her first cousin, Anna Simpson Barker (1834-1921). It seems likely that she is the Annie Barker of this letter, then residing in South Berwick.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection MWWC0196_02_00_015_01.

Louise Chandler Moulton to Sarah Orne Jewett

Pomfret, Conn.

March 27 —

[*1881*]*

Dear — I have just finished the last line of "Deephaven,"* which reached me yesterday morning — and for which many thanks. I am only melancholy because you did not, yourself, write my name in it with your own. But you will do that for me next winter. I had not read "Deephaven" since it first came out, and its deep, tranquil loveliness had the charm of novelty for me. I mean that I had forgotten just how* lovely it is. And

[*Page 2*]

now it seemed to me so like you, and it makes me want more than ever to talk with you. Your description of that sunset on the 39th page is a poem — I remember one so like it, once, at Etretat* — when sea and sky were all pale pearl, & yet you were conscious of flame behind them, passionate as the heart of a fire opal. — ^But^ the Chapter entitled "In Shadow" is another poem — the last three pages of it, especially — so sadly, sympathetically beautiful that it made the tears come to my eyes.

I am intensely

[*Page 3*]

interested in your stories of visions and impressions — and I want so much to know whether you really heard them — whether they are literally true.

I am glad you liked my poor Elizabeth Fordyce — * for there is more of myself in her than in any heroine I ever wrote about.

I wish we had known each other earlier, that our friendship might have had time to become a habit — But I shall please myself by thinking it is a seed planted in spring which the summer winds and suns and rains

[*Page 4*]

will foster, until in the autumn it will bear its fruit. I hope also to have the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Rice* in the autumn. You will find me, then and now, faithfully & affectionately, yours ——

Louise Chandler Moulton

Notes

1881: This date is uncertain, but fairly likely. The tone suggests that it comes from early in the Jewett-Moulton relationship. In other letters probably from about this time, Moulton was planning to be in Europe for the summer. In Moulton to Jewett of 19 March, she says she is sending a book of her poems to Jewett. It seems probable that Jewett, in response, has sent Moulton an autographed copy of *Deephaven*, leading to this letter from Moulton.

At the bottom left of page 1 in pencil is a circled numeral: 2.

"Deephaven": *Deephaven* was Jewett's 1877 novel. The sunset description that impressed Moulton is on p. 39 of this edition.

how: This word is underlined twice.

Etretat: Étretat is a French seaside town, northwest of Paris.

Elizabeth Fordyce: This character appears in Moulton's *Some Women's Hearts* (1874).

Mrs. Rice: Cora Lee Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence, bMS Am 1743 Box 4, Item 162. I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mr. Merriman Fragment

[*First half of 1881*]*

Dear Mr. Merriman

I answered your letter some days ago by asking if you could use a sketch of about fifty written — (or ten Atlantic) pages. It is to make part of a book called Country By ways which I am to publish early in the fall

[*Letter breaks off. No signature.*]

Notes

1881: Jewett's *Country By-Ways* appeared in the fall of 1881.

The identify of Mr. Merriman has not yet been discovered. Jewett's letter suggests he is connected with *Atlantic Monthly*, but that has not been confirmed.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 6, 266.

April 24, 1881

Death of James T. Fields

Sarah Orne Jewett to Annie Fields, sometime after 24 April 1881*

Wednesday evening

My own dear darling

I don't believe you were half so sad when you wrote this little letter as I was when I read it. Dear Annie I know that life is very hard for you and that the love and help that used to make it so much easier seem to have gone out of it. But it is not all wrong, and it does not hold you back and crush you down unless you make it so, for we both believe that God sent this loneliness and pain

[2]

into your life only to bless you and bring you closer to Him and to the dear one whom you love best — I can't bear to think of your sorrow. I can't bear to think that everything seems so blank and dreadful to you. I can't bear not to have you happy among the things that were so lovingly planned and brought together for your comfort and happiness. It ought not to be so dear love, and I do long to have you outgrow this kind of pain and misery that will not let you forget that you are hurt and lonely.

[3]

It seems to me that the only thing to do is to say I am hurt and my heart aches, but God keeps me here in the midst of the empty things that used to belong to my happiness, and I must live the old life alone, and put all my love and thoughtfulness and helpfulness into it, for the sake of whoever comes now; instead of for the sake of one only and for the sake of one only. I think nothing would please him more than to have you making other people happy just exactly as you have been doing since you came to Manchester. It is

[4]

not only Jesus Christ but your dear love beside who will think 'Ye have done it unto me.' His 'poor humanity'* whom he told you he was trying to help ~~are~~ is not only the people who cannot buy bread and shoes, but the people who cannot buy content and happiness because their every day lives are half worthless. And whether you work by your fingers that do pretty things for people to see, or whether you work by your beautiful gift of poetry — or by your own most

lovely presence that keeps most people up {to} the

[5]

best level that is in them — or by letting them come into the influence of the hospitality which delights every body who knows it — you are going about doing good — Don't think about next summer dear darling, dont think about tomorrow even, but make the days grow lovelier one by one because you do the tasks God sets you, as best you can — Dont say my heart aches and I am wretched, but say I am going to be happy by and by and have my own again, and God

[6]

is teaching me as I wait. Dont say that the time is long and bitterly hard but only that this is a short night between two blessed days, and I will not be always awake to the thought of my own sorrow and get frightened in the dark of uncertainty — Other people have sorrows that are full of shame and misery, and mine is a sorrow that is like a night full of stars and I see a great light in my darkness to lead me and show me

[7]

the way

Yes, dear love I know you were certain of all this before — but I can't help saying it again. One kind of happiness is gone, but it is to make place for a better one — "not as the world gives give I unto you"* — And so my dear darling I pray God that you may find His peace wherever you are, and may not wish either for the old dear days that are past or for the Heaven that is to come because you hold both and they belong

[8]

to you always in this world as they will always in the next. — And I love you and hold you close and cannot do without you. I will stay with [you] always when I can for it seems more and more lovely, and more strange, however dear other places and people may be, to be away from you. I think it is meant we should help each other and love each other more and more. Oh my dear dear darling, dont shut yourself out of the sunshine of life — it was only the shut windows of the city at which the morning light could not go in — [*deleted word*] —

[9]

I could not help saying all this, but after it is said I only stop to think, 'Oh if I could go to her and put my arms around her! {'} But it is something more than that which you want, something that no human love can give, but only God's love and goodness and your own faith and bravery — When I see that you do not feel so lonely if I am there, and then it is all worse than ever and lonelier, when I am away I know that my love is not

[10]

enough for you after all, though I would do anything for you and I love you with all the love that I can give. It is my great sorrow too because it is yours — but we will try to say: 'Yes I am not happy, but I can still make others happy and I must do my work lovingly whatever it is, and so I shall know what Heaven is better and better as the days go on. {'}

Good night dear and God bless you and comfort you — Yours always and always

S.O.J.

Notes

1881: Someone has written "A selfish grief" at the top of the first manuscript page in pencil. James T. Fields died on 24 April of 1881; Annie went through bouts of depression and despair over her loss.

'Ye have done it unto me': See Jesus' parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Matthew 25: 31-46: "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

"not as the world gives give I unto you": See John 14: 27: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

The manuscript of this letter is held in the Sarah Orne Jewett Collection, 1801-1997, of the University of New England's Maine Women Writers Collection: II. Correspondence, item 60.

Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

Monday Morn

[*2 May 1881*]*

Dear Sarah:

I had so much meeting going yesterday that I feel as if there was an empty hole where my brains ought to be, which is not an encouraging prospect for you when you are about to have this letter inflicted upon you. Mr. Emerson* preaches evenings, & last night gave a sort of lecture on China that was as interesting as a novel. He came in here to call in the evening, and is to spend next Sunday with us, & Mother

asked him to bring Mrs Emerson with him. Saturday we had a rigorous house cleaning going on all day, & got through with a lot of the disagreeable business, Sarah Hayes* having an energetic fit. She is coming again this week, and we shall get almost through I think.

[*Page 2*]

I wanted to fix the garden a little [too *?*] but it rains just enough to keep me in the house, but we need the rain more than I need to work in the garden. I am glad you liked the mayflowers. I never saw such beautiful ones in my life. Yesterday Mr. Eastman* went to walk, and brought home a great bunch that he got over back of Driscolls* and they were beauties too, though not so pink as mine.

You must have had a beautiful time at the circus. There are two or three coming to Dover this year so you may have more opportunities and sister is going too.

My invitation to the wedding came Saturday. What must I do about it? Of course I am not going, but want to send the correct answer, so be sure and tell me. Only think of the honor of being translated into German.*

[*Page 3*]

Don't you feel very set up about it? I think you ought certainly.

Thank you for reminding me of Georgies birthday. I meant to write her, and then was foolish enough to forget about it, but wrote her Saturday night. I mean to drive down to Portsmouth some day this week if I can for I solemnly promised Cousin Maria* that I would, & I suppose she breaks up there early this month.

I don't envy her the job. What do you suppose they will do with the works of art?

Mrs Goodwin* has gone to Boston, for a few days, principally to see Miss Mary{.} I believe the accounts from her are more favorable, though I hardly believe she will ever get well but perhaps she may. What shall be done to your dress besides taking out the blue part? I suppose the room will be darkened so that the shabby part will not show and I will have that freshened as much as possible.

[*Page 4*]

Did you see that Truly Thy Friend* has a legacy from Mr Fields? I am afraid he will not live to get it though, for it is not payable until after Mrs Fields death. It is a pity she will not give it to him now, for I have an idea he is not very well off. Wouldn't it be nice if you could go to Danvers? I wonder if he will be at the wedding. Do give my love to them all at the Claflins, and to any other friends who may come in your way. Mother says she has enjoyed your caramels very much, and they are not gone yet. You are going out to Newton ^to stay^ for the wedding aren't you? I should think you would have so much better time. Love to Cora* & all

Yrs affly

Mary R J —

Notes

2 May 1881: This date seems probable. James T. Fields died on 24 April 1881, making it possible that his legacy for Whittier could have been announced by this date. Though 1882 may seem more possible, Sarah Orne Jewett and Mrs. Fields were traveling in Europe in May 1882. Georgina Halliburton's birthday of 1 May fell on Sunday in 1881, making it likely that Jewett wrote this letter the following Monday.

Mr. Emerson: This may be American physician and lecturer, Dr. Edward Waldo Emerson (1844-1930). His wife was Annie Shepard Keyes. Wikipedia.

Mr. Eastman: Edwin Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Driscolls: Hannah Driscoll (c1846 - after 1887) was a Jewett neighbor and helper who, according to Paula Blanchard in Sarah Orne Jewett, took care of Uncle William Durham Jewett when he was ill.

German: It is not yet known which of Jewett's works were translated into German in her lifetime.

Georgies: Georgina Halliburton. Key to Correspondents. Her birthday was 1 May.

Cousin Maria: Cousin Maria Parker Perry Shackford Robinson (1817-1912) of Portsmouth, NH. Her second husband, Charles Robinson Jr., died 1 September 1880. Find a Grave.

Mrs Goodwin ... Miss Mary: Possibly Harriet Judith Goodwin, whose daughter was Mary Elizabeth Goodwin. See George Ichabod Goodwin in Key to Correspondents.

Truly thy Friend: Thy Friend was Jewett correspondent John Greenleaf Whittier. American editor and author James T. Fields (d. 24 April 1881) was the spouse of Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

Claflins: See Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin in Key to Correspondents. Presumably the wedding Jewett refers to was in this family.

Cora: Cora Lee Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Series: I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett MS Am 1743 (115) Jewett, Mary Rice, 1847-1930. 115 letters; 1885-1908 & [n.d.], 1885-1908.

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 100, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich to Sarah Orne Jewett

[*Begin letterhead*]

EDITORIAL OFFICE OF

The Atlantic Monthly,

BOSTON.

[*End letterhead*]

[*Date added to the right of the letterhead*]

May 10 ' ' , 1881.

My dear Miss Jewett:

I think your story* is charming & I haven't the heart to leave out any of it — even at your urging.

Yours very truly,

T. B Aldrich

Notes

story: Jewett published several items in *Atlantic Monthly* in 1881, but the only short story was "Andrew's Fortune" (July).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence I, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett. bMS Am 1743 (4). This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Box 2, Folder 99, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Celia Thaxter

Amesbury

5 Mo. 25 1881

My dear friend

Celia Thaxter

I am glad thee are again with Annie Fields* for I think something of thy magnetic thought and sympathy, must be grateful to her in her great sorrow.

I wrote thee directing to the Shoals three or four days ago but I presume it has not reached thee.

Thee ask about my health. I cannot say

[*Page 2*]

much of it. The winter & spring have borne hard upon me, but I am glad to feel somewhat stronger & able to enjoy this beautiful [resurrection *?*] of Nature, and to feel that life is still sweet. I shall have to get away into the country I think ere long.

I [included *?*] in my letter to thee a little tribute to our dear friend — the same that I sent to [Mrs

F. *?*]* & which, perhaps, [she *?*] has [*deletion of one or two words*] shown thee {.}

I hope to be able to look in upon thee at the Shoals

[*Page 3*]

this summer. In the mean time, God bless thee abundantly.

John G. Whittier

Notes

Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. F: This transcription is uncertain; it could easily be Mrs. or Mr. H or A. However, Whittier did compose a poem in 1881, "In Memory of James T. Fields." This suggests that Whittier refers to that poem here as a tribute to their mutual friend after his recent death on 24 April 1881.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. MS Am 1211, Box 1,Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892. A.L.s. to [Celia (Laighton) Thaxter]; Amesbury, 25 May 1881.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Shoals — 2nd June. 1881.

My darling, my white Annie, standing so long at your beautiful door to say goodbye to me, with the great eyes so dark in the dear pale face! Alas, why did they make you wait so long! I was so sorry, but I could not help it. In the car I took off bonnet & shawl, bestowed myself in a corner & worked for dear life on Mr Reeds* cap & got it all done; did not know it took two hours & a half to Ports.! couldn't realise I had got there. Mr Jimmy Mills Pierce came into the [car *corrected from* care *?*] going to Portland to his brothers wedding, with little [wizzled-up *?*] potato Mrs

Lodge:* he talked a long time to me & spoke beautifully of J.* — was so full of triumph & pleasure too about the Greek play,* he made himself most agreeable. Found my brother waiting for me at the station & the Pinafore* puffing at the wharf, so I rushed down to the De.N.'s,* left your gift for Aunty, who was so

[*Page 2*]

glad & grateful for it, & so disappointed to have me rush away! Out we came, my nice Norwegian Julia* was on board, who takes care of me at the cottage. It is so beautiful here, & such loving eager delightful service on all sides! But I am devoured with shame that I am not at the farm helping poor Mrs T. & Mr T.* I can't tell you how mortified I feel. If you were only here to tell me I am a fool & ~~that~~ I am doing the right thing! Mina* & I are to be set across on Sunday, Oscar says. Meanwhile these two or 3 days that are so delightful or would be with a clear conscience, are made bitter with a sense of meanness — I know they think I am mean to desert them — .

[*Page 3*]

Mina came over to see me last night. She looked like a sweet lady. We shall be set across Sunday — The bride & groom are to return on Sat — so I shall send Jessie's* things to Kentucky [by *? corrected*] this boat. O Annie — it is so beautiful every where, but I never get rid of this "want that [that *repeated*] hollows all the heart,"* & could cry for my sweet mother* every instant in the [day *corrected*], or gladly, how gladly! leave it all could I find & clasp her dear hand in the dark & go with her away from this resplendent, fragrant, singing, blooming world.

The boat goes — no more now, my darling. I send you my grateful thanks — goodbye

dear love

Your C.

Notes

Mr Reeds: Probably this is a relative of Aunty Reed, to whom Thaxter often refers in her letters. Neither person has yet been identified further.

Mr Jimmy Mills Pierce ... Mrs Lodge: Thaxter appears to have written "Pierce," but this cannot really be clear. James Mills Pierce (1834-1906) was professor of Astronomy and Mathematics at Harvard University. One of his surviving brothers was the American Philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce (1839-1914). His younger brother, diplomat Herbert Henry Peirce (1849-1916), married Helen Jose in 1881.

Mrs Lodge *may* be Mary Langdon Greenwood (Mrs. James) Lodge, though she was only about 6 years older than Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

J.: James T. Fields, who died on 24 April 1881.

the Greek play: Probably, Peirce refers to "the Greek play," *Oedipus Tyrannus,* by Sophocles, performed in Greek at Harvard University in May 1881. See *The Harvard Register* 3 (1881) p. 151. This issue of the *Register* contains a good deal of further information about the production. The cast list (p. 337) includes American author, Owen Wister.

my brother ... Pinafore: Thaxter's brothers were Cedric and Oscar Laighton; their tug boat for serving their hotel on Appledore was the *Pinafore*. See Thaxter in Key to Correspondents.

De.N.'s ...Aunty: Emily. F. de Normandie (1836-1916). Her husband was a Unitarian minister, James de Normandie (1836-1924). See *Men of Progress* p. 360.

Aunty Lunt — often mentioned in Thaxter's letters — probably is a relative of Mrs. De Normandie's grandmother, Ann Lunt Jones, but no more has yet been discovered about her identity.

Norwegian Julia: The identity of this Julia is uncertain. Norma Mandel, *Beyond the Garden Gate*, pp. 80-3, discusses Thaxter's associations with Norwegian immigrant families on the Isles of the Shoals.

Mrs T. & Mr T.: Mr. T almost certainly is Thaxter's husband, Levi Thaxter. Mrs. T, probably is his sister, Lucy White Titcomb (1818-1908).

Mina: Mina Berntsen and Edwin and Thora Ingebertsen are among several Norwegian immigrants who settled in the Isles of the Shoals. Mina, for a number of years, was employed by the Laightons. She is mentioned often in *Letters of Celia Thaxter* (1895). See Norma Mandel, *Beyond the Garden Gate*, pp. 80-3.

Jessie's: Jessie Cochrane. Key to Correspondents.

The wedding to which Thaxter refers is not yet known, though possibly she refers again to the Peirce wedding mentioned near the beginning.

"hollows all the heart": The origin of this quotation is not known. Possibly, Thaxter refers to a poem by Merva (Mary Kilgallen), "The Song of the Maid of Saragosa," which appeared in *Young Ireland* 7 (1881) pp. 606-7, and which includes these lines:

The pang that hollows all the heart has shot
into my brain
A fire that needs shall life consume if here I
must remain.

For Kilgallen, see *The Poets of Ireland* (1912), p. 235.

my sweet mother: Thaxter's mother was Eliza Rymes Laighton (1804-1877).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 1 (148-173).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Katherine Horsford*

Friday morning

Manchester by the Sea

[*10 June 1881*]*

Dear Kate

Mrs. Fields* wishes me to ask if you will not kindly give us the ~~li~~ little visit now? and stay over Monday and Tuesday — especially Monday ^night^ for Mr. Dyer* is coming for a brief farewell visit — Come tomorrow, Saturday, and stay over if you possibly

[*Page 2*]

can — or if you cannot be away so long, come Monday and stay until Tuesday or Wednesday — or —just as long as you can — I hope that you can take Sunday & Monday both — It is perfectly quiet now and the coachmen and footmen have not taken possession but the air never was salter

[*Page 3*]

and sweet and we think it is more lovely than ever before — Dear Kate do come! You know that we have been looking forward to having you here for a long time.

With love to all

Yours ever

Sarah —

[*Page 4*]

There is a nice train about 5 o'clock tomorrow afternoon and at 3:30 and indeed you can take your choice of any hour —

Notes

10 June 1881: An envelope associated with this letter is postmarked with this date. However, this date is problematic, for there is as yet no other evidence that Jewett stayed with Fields at Manchester by the Sea at this time, so soon after the death of James T. Fields on 24 April. Further, Jewett's other letters from this time say nothing of her visiting Fields at Manchester.

Mary Katherine Horsford: Eben N. Horsford's daughter. Key to Correspondents.

Mr. Dyer: This person has not yet been identified. Given Fields's circle of acquaintance, it is possible that this is Elisha Dyer (1811-1890), a businessman and Republican politician, who served as governor of Rhode Island (1857-1859). He was a descendant of the Quaker martyr, Mary Dyer, who sought refuge at Shelter Island, the Horsford estate, in the 17th century.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Fales Library and Special Collections, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University. Sylvester Manor Archive 1649-1996, MSS.208, IV: Horsford Family, Box 100: Folder 7. Jewett, Sarah Orne: Maine & Massachusetts.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Theophilus Parsons

South Berwick

12 June 1881

Dear Prof. Parsons

I have been thinking of you a great deal lately. It seems so long since I saw you or heard from you by letter, but I suppose that is partly my fault, though when I tell you that I have been ill for a good deal more than a year — you will be able to account for my silence — I was in Cambridge for a few days in March, and I meant to go to see you, but I was sorry to hear that you were quite sick just then and I was prevented from doing as I wished.

— I am very much better now, but I had a dismal long siege all last year — In the first place I got used up ^by^ writing [*deletion*] too much and doing every thing else beside! and I somehow

[*Page 2*]

[*deletion*] could not grow strong again but went on month after month with a good-for-nothing head and a foot that acted as if it never meant to go of its own accord — I was really very much used up, and though I wrote a little once in awhile because I couldn't help it, I had to stop all my plans and be as idle as possible. I think it has done me a great deal of good in many ways — it was like keeping a long Lent — and when I

am quite well again I shall know even better than I do now 'the gain of the loss'.

— I wish so much to have a long talk with you that it is a little hard to write a letter — I wish I could talk

[*Page 3*]

with you about my stories = Just now I am making up a book which is to come out in the fall — called Country By-ways* — It is mostly sketches of country life — & of my own country life. So far I have simply tried to write down pictures of what I see — but by and by I am going to say some things I have thought about those pictures — I don't know whether the pictures or the meditations will seem truest, but I know that I have found out some bits of truth for myself — and I know one other thing: that nobody has helped me to think more than you have.

[*Page 4*]

= I was thinking of you in church this morning while I tried to listen to a most (to me, at least) tiresome sermon — I believe there must soon be a new — unifying interpretation of the New Testament made public or preaching will lose its hold more and more. The explanation of its contradiction, and of the letter of it, is in most mens pulpits very trite and feeble — Thoughtful people are getting very tired of the sermons they hear, and ^of^ the [*deletion*] imagery that is taken for reality and boldly explained by worn out phrases — It is only when clergymen get hold of the spiritual meaning of the Bible that they really teach or help us; I can see that plainly enough; and I grow so impatient of the other

[*Page 5*]

thing that sometimes I think going to church makes me wicked! It isn't that I hear things that I know and am tired of hearing, but it is so far-fetched and false and one has the feeling that so many ministers have got into the habit of preaching, and they are not teachers of good — either by their lives or doctrines — I believe I hate sham more and more every year! —

I will not scold any more, or make you tired, because I was tired myself of that poor parson!

— When shall I see you again? and you do not forget me, do you? for I am always yours — sincerely & affectionately

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Country By-Ways: Jewett's short story collection was published in 1881, the Library of Congress copy deposited in November.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Colby College Library Special Collections, Waterville, ME: JEWE.1— Folder A52: to Theophilus Parsons, 1872-1881. A collection of Jewett's letters to Parsons and transcriptions of them was given to Colby College by Henry Ellicott Magill (1901-1985) of Pasadena, CA. Find a Grave. New transcription and notes

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Annie Adams Fields to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

[*19 June 1881*]

Please forgive this blotted [note *or* page] but the morning is warm and damp & [blotting *?*] paper treacherous.*

———————

Dear Mr. Aldrich:

By the time Mr. Whipple's* paper reaches me I shall be ready to put a portion of my little book into the hands of the printer because I wish to have the matter struck off and clearly arranged before I send it to you. I know this will be more expensive, (to make the changes in type,) but I cannot give you, under any [consideration *?*],

———————

Manchester by the Sea — Sunday June 19th 1881.

[*Page 2*]

the trouble to look over my manuscript in any other way.

I should like to have three copies struck off because I am going to ask Dr. Holmes* also to look at it.

I shall of course ask from you dear Mr. Aldrich the greatest frankness feeling sure that you would consider it an unkindness to him

[*Page 3*]

rather than have to allow to me to print anything too much, anything in bad taste, or any slips of grammar and construction.

I believe the faults I fear, take rank ^in my mind^ as I have instinctive^ly^ placed them above —

First; I fear ~~because~~ too much material; to put in unnecessary matter. I should prefer to strike out whole pages to having redundancy

anywhere, or repetition of his own work in less worthy form.

[*Page 4*]

Second: bad taste in saying things which are either put in a bad manner or better not be put at all —

Third; slips of all kinds — I am very careless —, not willingly but somehow putting off the evil day of corrections — or much worse failing to see them altogether!!

As I have said, after receiving Mr. Whipple's paper I shall be quite ready to begin — Will you kindly put me into relation with the right printer{?} As for the engraving may I also get you to [set *or* get] ~~him~~ ^the engraver^ at work immediately —* I dread this — The photograph is perfect. Can Closson* make a perfect copy think you?

I trust you are all well{.} My tender thought and memory go to you with this —

Ever yours most truly

Annie Fields.

Notes

treacherous: A few blots appear on page 1, but the letter as a whole has been revised at several points. One may speculate that much in the writing of this letter reflects Fields struggling with her grief over the death of her husband, James T. Fields, on 24 April 1881, less than 2 months before this letter.

Mr. Whipple's paper: American author and critic, Edwin Percy Whipple (1818-1886). His "Recollections of James T. Fields" appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in August 1881. Fields quoted from it at length in her "little book," *James T. Fields: Biographical Notes and Personal Sketches* (1881).

Dr. Holmes: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. Key to Correspondents.

immediately: Fields has used a dark wavy line for underlining.

Closson: Almost certainly, this is American artist William Baxter Palmer Closson (1848-1926), who worked as an engraver for several Boston publishers.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: MS Am 1429, Box 6, Items 1446-1538.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Shoals — 25th June —

[*1881*]*

Dearest Annie:

Thanks for your dear letter — Indeed I shall be most glad to do what you wish about the MS.* according to my light, & long to see what you have done — I imagine Mary* on your hill top now & a brighter & more natural atmosphere — And the skies brighten & soften, the cold & damp have been so depressing! I am so glad for any approximation to warmth — it seemed

[*Page 2*]

as if our [rock *?*] were encircled by ice-bergs just out of sight — I am thankful for every moment of Aunty Reed's* fond, sympathetic pleasant & sensible company — she is only to stay till next Friday— I wish I could keep her all summer. I dont think of the farm any more than I can help & I work like a fiend every moment & so the days fly — I am writing this on my back, resting, after the whole morning in my garden, transplanting, weeding watering, & training the vines — it tires me [almost *corrected*] to death —

[*Page 3*]

The rats eat all my sweet peas regularly, dig them up & devour as fast as I plant — But the other things are truly splendid with vigorous growth, the only difficulty is in reducing their numbers so that the fittest to survive may get their full growth & perfection — I wish I could see yours! Did the thyme come up? You never said if the olive jug* was a success — I'm afraid it wasn't — I told Cooley* not to send it to you if it wasnt — I have painted three more. But they take time — I have done Roman anemones on pure porcelain. They are lovely — Annie, would it not be a divine thing if when we go

[*Page 4*]

away out of life, two could go together, hand in hand —— Must we be alone I wonder, — When in some great disaster so many go, at once, do they find comfort in each other's company, I wonder, & wonder — But I wish I could go, alone or in company, no matter how — I have had enough of this —— All in good time!

I wish you could see the arch of Constantine my Schwesterlein* had sent her for a wedding present — it is four feet square & beyond description imposing{;} ours are like toys beside it. Hers is a photo — Her room is so beautiful with lovely diaphanous [draperies *corrected*], bowery roses & heliotrope on the balcony, her rosewood piano & all her charming things —

Write, my sweet Annie, let me hear how all goes on — pardon my scrawl & believe me your weary but loving

[*Initials C. and T. superimposed*]

Notes

1881: The Boston Public Library has assigned this year. Probably this is correct, as Thaxter refers to her new sister-in-law. See notes below.

MS.: Presumably, Fields has asked Thaxter to review her manuscript of *James T. Fields*, *Biographical Notes and Personal Sketches* (1881).

Mary: Which Mary this is from among their acquaintances is not yet known.

Aunty Reed: Aunty Reed has not yet been identified.

olive jug: Thaxter refers to her china painting.

Cooley: L. Cooley was the proprietor of the Boston China Decorating Works. See Leading Manufacturers and Merchants of the City of Boston (1885), p. 309.

arch of Constantine ... Schwesterlein: Thaxter refers to Julia Stowell, her new sister-in-law, as "little sister" (German). She and Cedric Laighton were married in 1881.

The Arch of Constantine was erected in Rome in AD 315.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 1 (148-173).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

[*25 June, about 1881*]*

Dear Mrs Aldrich

Thank you for your note which came just before I left home for a few days. I have been in such a scurry that I have not had a chance to answer it, and even now I cannot be polite and definite! I shall be delighted to go to you early in July

[*Page 2*]

but I cannot tell exactly the day for a little while, since I must wait to know about some other plans. I wish it could be the Fourth, for I should have a beautiful time with the boys!* but I do not think it will be a great while after that. Perhaps we shall

[*Page 3*]

have a pinch of your powder left, among us all? —

Yours affectionately

Sarah O. Jewett

South Berwick

25 June

If you wish to make some other plans for three or four days about that time you will tell me so wont you? and I think I can go to you ~~early~~ ^late^ in August

[*Page 4*]

instead.

Notes

July 1881: This date seems likely, based on Jewett to Lilian Aldrich of 8 July 1881.

the boys: The Aldriches had twins born in 1868: Charles and Talbot.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

[*8 July 1881*]

Dear Mrs. Aldrich

I have been meaning to write to you every day, but I could not be quite sure about my leaving home. At this time of the year we have guests coming and going from the house very often — and my sister* and I do not like to leave home together — She has been delayed [*deleted word*] in carrying out a plan she made for

[*Page 2*]

a short stay at [*deleted word*] York with some friends — but now I am pretty sure I can go to you next Friday if that will suit you — ? —

I will take the six o'clock from Boston and I can stay until Tuesday. I am looking forward with so much pleasure to being with you — wont we have a good time? and will you send me one word so I shall know if it is all right with

[*Page 3*]

you? for perhaps you would rather make some other plan for just that time.

— I should be sorry I had to write this note in such a hurry ([*deleted word*] I have so many things to say) — but I shall see you before very long — With kindest regards to Mr. Aldrich and many thanks for his letter & [*unrecognized word* genes *?*] —

Yours most sincerely and affectionately

Sarah O. Jewett

South-Berwick

8 July 1881

Notes

sister: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Orne Jewett to William Dean Howells

Isles of Shoals,

Tuesday.

[*26 July 1881*]*

Dear Mr. Howells

I told Mrs. Thaxter* this morning that I had been poaching, but she didn't mind and I hope you will like these verses. She did, and I did too! and I request your pardon for saying so. I might have said that "some friends advised my sending them". My love to Mrs. Howells* and I am hoping to see you by and by. I am getting well again fast. — I think I should have twenty-five dollars for "The Island". I must tell you some day about my tolling the bell (which was 'true').* Mrs. Fields was with me and we did not know what people would say, but I had to give that rope a pull!

Yours sincerely,

Sarah O. Jewett

I am going home soon so please direct to me there.

Notes

26 July 1881: That this apparently is the letter by which Jewett submitted her poem, "On Star Island," to Howells points to a July 1881 composition. Other letters place Jewett at Isles of the Shoals during the week of 24 July 1881. See, for example, her letter of 27 July to Lilian Woodman Aldrich.

Mrs. Thaxter: Celia Thaxter. See Correspondents. Thaxter resided on Appledore in the Isles of Shoals and published poems about the islands, which probably explains what Jewett means by "poaching."

Mrs. Howells: See William Dean Howells in Correspondents.

"The Island". ...my tolling the bell: Jewett's poem "On Star Island" first appeared in *Harper's Magazine* (63:550-551), September 1881. Weber and Weber report that the poem was written at Isles of Shoals, July 26, 1880 (25). Rita Gollin says, in *Annie Fields: Woman of Letters* (2002), that the friendship of Jewett and Annie Fields began when they met on Star Island: The poem ends:

> I saw the worn rope idle hang
> Beside me in the belfry brown.
> I gave the bell a solemn toll —
> I rang the knell for Gosport town.

There are three typescripts of this letter. The transcription above is from one of the two held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743.1 Sarah Orne Jewett Additional Correspondence II. Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, Box 4 (120). It is virtually identical to that held in transcriptions from mixed repositories in the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters from Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Folder 72, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

Below is the second typescript at the Houghton, which differs in several ways from the one above, e.g., the day of composition.

Transcription — Version 2

Isles of Shoals

Wednesday

Dear Mr. Howells:

I told Mrs. Thaxter this morning that I had been poaching, but she didn't mind and I hope you will like these verses. She did, and I did too! and I request your pardon for saying so. I might have said that "some friends advised my sending them".

My love to Mrs. Howells and I am hoping to see you by and by. I am getting well again fast.

I think I should have Twenty-five Dollars for "Star Island". I must tell you some time about my tolling the bell (which was 'true'). Mrs. Fields was with me and we did not know what people would say, but I had to give that rope a pull!

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

I am going home soon so please direct me there.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mrs. Oliver*

Isles of Shoals

27 July 1881

Dear Mrs. Oliver

This is to say how much I thank you for giving ^me^ so much pleasure on Friday — I wished to send it before, but somehow I was always in a desperate hurry until I reached this peaceful haven — and now I am fast growing so sleepy that I think it would be wise

[*Page 2*]

to make sure by sending the letter before I curl up for a forty years rest! The Shoals is a most quieting place and this year it is more so than usual. Mrs. Rice* is with me here and we are residing together until Friday when Mr. Rice is to come for a few days. I do not suppose I can stay longer than the middle

[*Page 3*]

of next week — for the finishing of my [story-book* *corrected*] is weighing on my mind a little. I look forward with great pleasure to (a bit of me!) having a permanent home in your dear and charming house — unless you cast that fragment of my soul away as waste paper and that I hope you wont do! Mrs. Rice would send you a message if she were here but she

[*Page 4*]

has gone prowling across the rocks with some friends — When we met again yesterday we could hardly find words enough or talk fast enough about our pleasant day at Swampscott — I hope Miss Oliver is well and happy and will you give her a kiss? and may I send my kindest remembrances to Mrs. Little* and I am always your sincere and affectionate friend

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Oliver: While this is not certain, it is possible that Mrs. Oliver is Susan Lawrence Mason Oliver, the wife of a Boston physician, hymnologist, author, and local historian, Fitch Edward Oliver (1819-1892). Their daughter was Susan Lawrence Oliver (1881-1969).

Mrs. Rice: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

story-book: At this time, Jewett was working on her story collection, *Country By-Ways* (1881). The volume included two sketches that had not been published previously.

Mrs. Little: Ella Walworth Little. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Libraries, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections; Cairns Collection of American Women Writers, Comprehensive collection of works by Sarah Orne Jewett.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

Isles of Shoals

27 July 1881

My dear Duchess*

I should have written you days ago, but I have been waiting for the photographs which have not made their appearance yet. I had a most charming little visit at Mrs. Fields's* and she was more delightful and dear than ever. I think the book* is going to be wonderfully interesting and she has succeeded in making one of the very best

[*Page 2*]

books of that kind, that I ever knew — at any rate! Mrs. Lodge* did not come until after I left — (though I met her in a train) — so Mrs. Fields and I were all alone.

— I spent a day in Swampscott* and then went to Gloucester and I had a very pleasant day or two with Miss Phelps* though I must confess to you that her real talent and fine gifts are very much spoiled to me by that streak of morbid silliness which is tangled though and through her writing and her talking.

[*Page 3*]

There is so much that I respect and honour in her that I hate to say this — but you and I have talked about her before and I am sure I am only saying it to you. To tell you the truth, I am in a great hurry to see you again dearest Duchess! I am always thinking of things to ask you and to tell you and I feel very rich when I think of you and remember that you are my friend — I think as one grows older one gives and takes friendship

[*Page 4*]

with greater care — and deeper satisfaction! [*deleted word*] I did have a lovely little visit and I think of all your household very often, and

wonder if the cherries are gone and if Billy* is properly attended and served, and if anybody has been fishing.

The day I left Gloucester, I found I had to wait some where on the road before I could catch a train for Berwick, and I thought I should get a better lunch and have a better time in

[*Page 5*]

Boston, so I went there for two hours. I went to Park St.* to see if my proofs were ready and then I went to Bradford & Anthony's* and bought a fishing rod — I should like to show it to you for I think it is a pretty good one, but it doesn't hold a candle to your best one, you know!

— Please tell Mrs. Goodman* that I find the little hood very useful, and it will march up and down the piazzas this very night.

[*Page 6*]

I displayed Bopeep* with triumph to my sister, and left her at home because I was afraid the sea air might fade her! I was only at home over night — to get a bigger trunk and some more clothes, and tell my family I was still very much attached to them!

— Now I must say good by, for I am going over to Appledore — Some people are waiting for me, and I am going to spend the

[*Page 7*]

rest of the morning with Mrs. Thaxter* — She came down to the wharf when we got in yesterday, so I saw her for a minute. Mrs. Rice* sends you her kindest remembrances. I am hoping to see you while I am here, which will be until next Wednesday — I'll finish this very scratchy letter when the photograph comes. Please give my love to all.

Yours most affly

S. O. J.

Notes

Duchess: Among their close friends, the Aldriches were nicknamed the Duke and Duchess of Ponkapog. Key to Correspondents.

A. F.: Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

the book: At this time, Fields was working on her memoir of her husband, *James T. Fields*, which appeared late in 1881.

Mrs. Lodge: Mary Langdon Greenwood Lodge. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Phelps: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward. Key to Correspondents.

Billy: This person or pet known to the Aldriches has not been identified.

Park St.: Address of the offices of *Atlantic Monthly* and the publisher, Houghton, Mifflin.

Bradford & Anthony's: "Samuel Bradford was a Boston hardware & sporting goods retailer and wholesaler established in the 1800s. Martin Bradford started handling fishing tackle in the middle of the 1800s after taking over the company reins from his father. In 1867 Bradford took on Nathan Anthony as a partner to form the company whose reels we sometimes encounter. Bradford & Anthony retailed many New York style reels and brass fly reels produced by Brooklyn reelmakers. B&A was sold to Dame, Stoddard & Kendall in 1883." Old Reel Collectors Association, "Reel Distributors."

Mrs. Goodman: This person has not yet been identified.

Bopeep: Bo Peep costumes traditionally include a bonnet; perhaps Jewett has left a new bonnet at home. Or perhaps she refers to a doll. Little Bo-Peep was a familiar, unfortunate young shepherdess in an English nursery rhyme with a number of variants. Perhaps most familiar is:

> Little Bo-Peep has lost her sheep,
> And doesn't know where to find them;
> Leave them alone, and they'll come home,
> Wagging their tails behind them.

In this version, the sheep lose their tails, and Bo Peep must find and restore them.

Mrs. Thaxter: Celia Thaxter. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Rice: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Sunday

[*31 July 1881*]*

You dearest, your sweet note came & one for Sarah,* which I [despatched *so spelled*] to Star* — It is so dear to have her here! She comes over in the little Pinafore* ever & anon & sits by my chair while I paint, & wanders in & out about the piazza & garden, & is sweet & comforting & captivating — Last night she came over & spent part of evening with Mr & Mrs Rice*

— Albert & Paine* played — There was a German at the house & the maidens & younger married women were all in wondrous array. Mrs Brown* lovely in soft white stuff with a waterlily in her hair, Mrs Williams* in dark with red silk kerchief Greek wise over her hair & red wood-lilies in her dress — Mr Thaxter* came in night boat & brought us all some. The room

[*Page 2*]

looked absolutely resplendent with the flowers & the beautiful women. I never saw so many handsome women together as there are here this summer —

Annie — my garden is something beyond words! Its beauty isn't to be told{.} I wish you could see it! It is a great [mosaic *corrected*] of the most brilliant orange, yellow, flame, scarlet, crimson, purple pink & blue in every shade of these colors — There's a black poppy with crimson centre that's enough to kill you — And my vines hop, scarlet bean, cucumber, honey suckle, nasturtium, [wistaria *so it appears*], cobea, why you never saw the like! They make a lovely green & flowery screen from piazza eaves to floor — And I've had damask & blush roses, & my hollyhocks are out in rose & straw color & deep crimson & maroon & that dear Michaelmas daisy you gave me, blows & blows in

[*Page 3*]

the middle of the garden & never stops, as big as a bushel basket! And the sunflowers are bursting out. [Its *so spelled*] a sight!

Mr Thaxter is going to read — Riddle* read 3 times, did very well — went away yesterday — At last I did sell an olive pitcher!* O Annie, I work every instant — I did go over to Star to tea with Sarah Jewett because she wasn't well, other wise I [havn't *so it appears*] stirred from my [course *?*].

All this while Lucy* went for my breakfast!

Dear Annie, I'm tired before the day begins — If it [werent *so spelled*] for the music I should give up the ship. It is all that holds my head above water — You darling! I hope I shall hear from you tonight{.}

Here comes my breakfast & I am late —

Your loving

[*Initials C. and T. superimposed*]

Notes

31 July 1881: The Boston Public Library dates the letter to 1881. This seems likely. Thaxter speaks of Sarah Orne Jewett as a new acquaintance, as would have been the case in 1881. Jewett writes a letter to Lilian Woodman Aldrich from Isles of Shoals on 27 July 1881, in which she reports plans to spend time with Thaxter. It is possible that Thaxter wrote this letter on the previous Sunday, 24 July.

Sarah: Sarah Orne Jewett.

Star: Star Island, one of the Shoals islands.

Pinafore: Thaxter's brothers, the Laighton brothers, operated this tug to serve their hotel on Appledore.

Mr & Mrs Rice: Alexander and Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Albert & Paine: Albert may be Albert Joseph Van Raalte (1859-1919), a business-man and musician in Boston, the son of Dutch (possibly Jewish) immigrants, Joël Joseph van Raalte (1832-1885) and Frances/Fanny Abrahams (1834-1902). See his obituary in *Billboard* (Cincinnati) 31:16 (April 19, 1919) pp. 82-3.

John Knowles Paine (1839-1906) was an American composer who also served as professor of music at Harvard University. His wife was Mary Elizabeth Greeley (1836-1920).

Mrs Brown: This is merely a guess. Thaxter was acquainted with John Appleton Brown and his wife, Agnes Augusta Bartlett. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs Williams: This person has not yet been identified.

Mr Thaxter: Thaxter's husband, who performed readings of British poet, Robert Browning.

Riddle: George Riddle (1851-1910), author and Harvard instructor of elocution, achieved fame as a solo performer, particularly of Shakespeare, but of other authors as well, including especially Robert Browning. See his obituary in the Cambridge *Chronicle* of 3 December 1910, p. 13.

olive pitcher: Thaxter painted and sold china.

Lucy: This may be a household helper, or perhaps Thaxter's sister-in-law, Lucy Thaxter Titcomb (1818-1908), sister of Levi Thaxter. Usually, Thaxter refers to Mrs Titcomb more formally.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 1 Folder 1 (i-xviii).

Sarah Orne Jewett to William Hayes Ward

[*14 August 1881*]*

Dear Dr. Ward

I send you the story, registered, by this post. If you cannot publish it by the 10th or 12th of September please return it to me.

— I have been away from home and forgot it, so I had not done any thing with it — I think it is ~~best~~ one of the best things I have done and if I did not want it for my book I should keep it for a magazine — That's frank — isn't it?

— I saw Mr. Gladden* the other day — by the sea — and I was very glad of it — ~~the~~ will none of your house hold come this way this summer?

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

South Berwick Maine

14 Aug — [*1881*]

Notes

1881: Green has determined the date of this letter by speculating persuasively that if Ward published the story in *The Independent*, and it was a story for adult readers that she soon collected, then the story most likely was "Miss Becky's Pilgrimage," which appeared on 1 September 1881 and was collected that year in *Country By-Ways*. See also Jewett to Ward of 19 August 1881.

Mr. Gladden: Wikipedia says: "Washington Gladden (February 11, 1836 - July 2, 1918) was a leading American Congregational pastor and early leader in the Social Gospel movement. He was a leading member of the Progressive Movement, serving for two years as a member of the Columbus, Ohio city council and campaigning against Boss Tweed as religious editor of the New York Independent. Gladden was probably the first leading U.S. religious figure to support unionization of the workforce; he also opposed racial segregation. He was a prolific writer who wrote hundreds of poems, hymns, articles, editorials, and books.... In 1875, Gladden became pastor of the North Congregational Church in Springfield, MA for seven years. During this pastorate, Gladden also worked as editor of *Sunday Afternoon* (1878-1880). *Sunday Afternoon* described itself as “A Monthly Magazine for the Household.”

Jewett published a number of poems and stories in *Sunday Afternoon* during 1878-1879.

This transcription by David Bonnell Green appears in "Two Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett." *Notes and Queries* 5 (1958): 361-362. He notes the manuscript is held by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Sarah Orne Jewett to William Hayes Ward
Fragment

[*19 August 1881*]

an advance copy or your proof perhaps, in case the story went over two weeks, for I believe that could give me time enough. You see I have no copy of ~~the~~ Miss Becky* — not any sort of likeness at all!

Yours sincerely

Sarah Jewett.

South-Berwick

19 August — 1881*

Would you send me a line if you can tell when it will be in print?

Notes

Miss Becky: Jewett's "Miss Becky's Pilgrimage" appeared in *The Independent* in a single issue, 1 September 1881. See also Jewett to Ward of 14 August 1881. While it is not certain that this letter was addressed to Ward, that seems probable.

It would appear that Jewett is concerned to obtain a copy of her story for inclusion in *Country By-Ways*, to be published before the Christmas holidays in 1881.

1881: The year has been added by another hand, apparently in blue colored pencil. This date almost certainly is correctly inferred from Jewett mentioning her story.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Francis Jackson Garrison

[*19 Aug. 1881*]*

Dear Mr. Garrison

I suppose I shall be at Rangeley* from the middle to the last of September — Shall I be ready for my proofs* between the tenth & twentieth, say — or after the first of October? I should rather get them off my mind! but

[*Page 2*]

you will know when it will be most convenient for the Riverside Press! — I could begin within a week but there is one story that is unpublished which I have to wait a little while for — but I

mean to find out ^within a day or two^ exactly when I can have the ms. again —

Yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett

South Berwick

19 Aug — [*in another hand* 1890]

Notes

1881: At the end of the letter is the date 1890, but this appears to have been added later, in pencil, by another hand. In fact, Jewett was not at Rangeley during the second half of September 1890; she was, instead, at Manchester by the Sea. As the notes below indicate, she planned to go to Rangeley in September of 1881.

Penciled lightly above the salutation is "Frank J." Also the date "19 August 1890" is penciled lightly in the upper right corner of page 1. Penciled in the lower right of page 2, "F.J.G."

Rangeley: Rangeley Lake was a resort area north of Augusta, ME. In a letter to Alexander Wilson Drake of 2 October 1880, Jewett says she is planning to go to Rangeley in September of 1881.

proofs: See Jewett to William Hayes Ward of 14 August and also the fragment of 19 August. David Bonnell Green has determined the date of the 14 August letter by speculating persuasively that if Ward published the story in *The Independent*, and it was a story for adult readers that she soon collected, then the story most likely was "Miss Becky's Pilgrimage," which appeared on 1 September 1881 and was collected that year in *Country By-Ways*.

Assuming that Green is correct, then it seems probable that she writes this letter to Garrison regarding proofs for *Country By-Ways* (1881).

The manuscript of this letter is held by Smith College Special Collections, Northampton, MA, Letters — Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1890-96, undated. New England Hospital for Women and Children records, Sophia Smith Collection, SSC-MS-00339.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Kittery Point. Sept 14th (81

My dearest: I am so glad of your letter received yesterday — Is [*deleted name*]* uneasy, unsatisfied, in that beautiful house & that beautiful place, with beautiful you? I cannot possibly imagine it! It must be so lovely there now — how I wish I could go to you, dear Annie — But tomorrow is this dear & charming Mina's* last limit of stay, & I am shrinking before that hydra headed monster of general house ^-work^ which is soon going to make one large ache of me. I have busied myself every where to try & find some one, & a woman

[*Page 2*]

was to have come over from Ports. last Monday, to try, but sent word she was ill & so I am waiting to hear from her again — Meanwhile Mina slips from my grasp. She is such a comfort, this child, so intelligent, so interested in everything, so interesting herself, such a dear little ladylike companion, such a beautiful cook & laundress & scrubber & general "setter-to-rights"! Truly, her price is far above rubies* & I am in despair to think she must go at all. I do not see my way clear to getting off from here, — heaven only knows

[*Page 3*]

when I shall! I cannot leave the boys & all in such a heap. The house has got some order & regularity in it at last, & that is one comfort, but it is full of work as it can hold, for every minute.

I send you my dearest love, ever & always. I am so glad to hear your voice — If you do not hear from me as often as before, you know the remoteness, the infrequency of mails & the continual puttering about housework — reasons enough & bad manners to them all!

[*Page 4*]

The Palmyra* got in on Sunday I hear, with Mr Eichberg* — He made a short stay.

Goodbye, dear love — Dont ever think your book* isn't going to be a success — nobody will find it "'trivial", every body will recognise it, dont fear.* I wish I could see the rest of it! But patience! O lots of patience one must have in this world!

Your ever loving.

C.

Notes

deleted name: It seems clear that someone has heavily deleted the name Thaxter wrote. What remains visible makes it likely that the name is Jessie, referring to Jessie Cochrane, a frequent guest of Annie Fields. Cochrane is mentioned in Thaxter to Jewett of 17 September 1881. Key to Correspondents.

Mina's: Mina Berntsen, Edwin and Thora Ingebertsen are among several Norwegian immigrants who settled in the Isles of the Shoals. Mina, for a number of years, was employed by the Laightons. She is mentioned

often in *Letters of Celia Thaxter* (1895). See Norma Mandel, *Beyond the Garden Gate*, pp. 80-3.

above rubies: Thaxter alludes to the Bible, Proverbs 31:10: "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies."

Palmyra: The Cunard Line steamship *Palmyra* served between Liverpool, UK and New York City and Boston during most years between its launch in 1865 and being scrapped in 1896.

Mr. Eichberg: Julius Eichberg (1824-1893) was a German-born composer, musical director and educator in Boston. His wife was author, Sophie Mertens (d. 1927).

your book: Annie Fields's memorial biography of her husband appeared in November 1881: *James T. Fields*, *Biographical Notes and Personal Sketches* (1881). Thaxter had read part of the manuscript. At least one reviewer thought parts of the book trivial. See *Annie Adams Fields* by Judith Roman, pp. 101-3.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 1 (148-173).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Kittery Point.

Sept 17th (81

My dearest:

Thousand thanks for last night's dear note. I have got a pair of legs & arms as long as the Moral Law,* entitled Marcella McDonald,* for which I am devoutly thankful, tho' how long they will remain or how they will "do", I'm ignorant as yet — My dear little Mina* went yesterday, — the day before I went over to Ports. to look after the aforesaid legs & arms, & her willingness &

[*Page 2*]

indeed anxiety to come to this lonely place astonished me. She has a husband at work in the "Marine Barracks" (so I saw a note which she had addressed to him) she comes from Dublin, she is seventeen feet high, more or less, & very clean in her appearance & unmistakably anxious to please. That is all I know, except that I am humbly grateful for her existence & her presence here. She said to me yesterday, "Do you know why I wanted so much to come here?" "No," I answered. "Because I liked the looks of you" (!) she replied, "I seed you often

[*Page 3*]

going to Mrs De .Normandie's,* & I liked you so, I was glad when you asked me to come with you" — I never was more astonished — I dare say all kinds of impossibilities may & will turn up with the woman, but she saves my life just now. I am expecting the Princess of Berwick* every day — she said she was going to drive down here before Sunday — it is 16 miles from Berwick here. And I am expecting Annie Eichberg,* whom the boys are very anxious to have for a little visit, she plays so well & is so generally bright & jolly — And also Mrs De Normandie for the day, they have never been here all this time! The De N's{.}

[*Page 4*]

I am so thankful to you for your thought of me, you beautiful, dear darling. And I'm so glad to be able to tell you that I've somebody, if only for a brief space of time. Of course I have a great deal more to do than when Mina was here, but I can get along quite well. I am counting the days of my dear Roland's* stay — he will be off in about a week, I think. There is an endless, deal of sewing, mending & patching to be done & I am busy every minute — My love to Jessie* — a thousand thousand loves to you, you best & dearest, from your grateful

C.

Notes

Moral Law: Thaxter may allude to the proverbial "long arm of the law," that legal authority reaches to all parts of society and cannot easily be evaded. "The moral law" differs in meaning depending upon context. It seems likely that Thaxter refers to a concept of universal law — valid in all places and times — as different from written law, for example, which may vary between cultures.

Marcella McDonald: No further information about her has yet been discovered.

Mina: Mina Berntsen, Edwin and Thora Ingebertsen are among several Norwegian immigrants who settled in the Isles of the Shoals. Mina, for a number of years, was employed by the Laightons. She is mentioned often in *Letters of Celia Thaxter* (1895). See Norma Mandel, *Beyond the Garden Gate*, pp. 80-3.

"Marine Barracks": Presumably, Mr. McDonald works and resides at the Marine barracks at the Portsmouth, NH, Naval Shipyard.

Mrs De Normandie's: Emily. F. de Normandie (1836-1916). Her husband was a Unitarian minister, James de Normandie (1836-1924). See *Men of Progress* p. 360.

Princess of Berwick: Especially among her family, Sarah Orne Jewett was spoken of as the Queen of Sheba, or just the Queen. Key to Correspondents.

Annie Eichberg: Author Annie Eichberg Lane (d. 1927), was the daughter of Julius Eichberg (1824-1893), a German-born composer, musical director and educator in Boston. His wife was author, Sophie Mertens (1828-1921).

Roland's: Thaxter's youngest son.

Jessie: Jessie Cochrane. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 1 (148-173).

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Danvers 9th Mo 26 1881

My dear Friend

Long before this I had hoped to call on thee at Manchester by the Sea but for the last weeks of summer & during the present month, I have suffered from a severe cold from the effects of which I am slowly recovering — so slowly however that I sometimes doubt whether there is really any gain.* I am very glad to hear of thy memorial volume of our dear friend.* It is eminently fitting that thee should prepare it.

[*Page 2*]

But thee [remembers *?*] Richard Baxter's* words in his memoir of his wife — what he calls "a paper monument erected by me who is following even at the door in some passion of love & grief." — He says: — "God having taken away the dear companion of my life my grief and the sense of former things have prevailed upon me to be passionate in the sight of all."

[To day *so it appears*] our noble President* is to be laid at rest{.} What words can portray the scene! The world seems gathered around his grave. History records nothing like it. The moral influence of his life

[*Page 3*]

and death must long be felt for good.

I was at the Shoals for two days just before my illness, and saw Celia Thaxter,* & her new sister, Cedric's wife, who seems a pleasant, likeable young woman.

With much love and sympathy I am always, thy friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

gain: A penciled X appears after this sentence.

friend: Whittier speaks of *James T. Fields*, Fields's memoir of her late husband, who died on 24 April 1881. Key to Correspondents.

Richard Baxter's: English Puritan leader and author, Richard Baxter (1615-1691) wrote *A Breviate of the Life of Mrs Margaret Baxter* (1681), published in the year of her death.

Whittier's memory is not exact. Baxter wrote at the end of Chapter 9, "... and I hope this Paper-Monument, erected by one that is following, even at the door, in some passion indeed of love, and grief, but in sincerity of truth, will be more publickly useful and durable than that Marble-stone was" (p. 99).

The second quotation does not appear in *A Breviate*, but in a footnote to the 1826 edition, where it is quoted from the preface to Baxter's *Poetical Fragments* (1689): "God having taken away the dear companion of the last nineteen years of my life ..., so my grief for her removal, and the revived sense of former things, have prevailed with me to publish them."

Whittier seems to have altered the final part, changing the wording from "publish them" to "be passionate in the sight of all." The reason for this change is not yet known, but Whittier had published this version of the quotation, where he identifies the preface as his source, in his sketch, "Richard Baxter." The sketch seems to have appeared first in *The Friends' Intelligencer* 25 (1869, p. 306).

President: American President James A. Garfield (1831 - 9 September, 1881) was assassinated, dying of a gunshot wound received on 2 July 1881. Sarah Orne Jewett published an essay in *The Congregationalist* on the trial of his assassin, Charles Guiteau, in 1882: "The Plea of Insanity."

Celia Thaxter: Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 70-4747.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Danvers 9th mo 27 1881

My dear Friend

I do not doubt the book* will be one of interest to the public generally; but if there is any

hesitation in thy mind respecting it, it would be safest to print a limited number of copies for private circulation at first. I, for my part, should unhesitatingly trust the matter to thy own judgment. I know of no one who could better decide what

[*Page 2*]

should be published & what omitted.

Our friends Aldrich and Whipple* would be safe counsellors if thee see fit to consult them. But, I do not see why thy own sense of propriety & fitness is not better than theirs.

I wish I [were *or* was] well enough to leave home and look over thy manuscript but, I am quite unable to do it at this time. I feel so sure that it is as it should be, that I cannot entertain a single fear about it.

[*Page 3*]

I return [the *?*] Holmes* letter. It strikes me as judicious. He evidently finds nothing to except to in the book, but to relieve thee of any anxiety his suggestion of a small private edition, is worth considering.

Ever & faithfully

thy friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

the book: Whittier speaks of Fields's work on her memoir of her late husband, the publisher James T. Fields, who died on 24 April 1881. Key to Correspondents.

Aldrich and Whipple: For Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Key to Correspondents. Almost certainly, Whipple is the American author and critic, Edwin Percy Whipple (1819-1886).

Holmes: Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 70-4743.

Celia Laighton Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Monday A. M. on train. [*1881*]

I am so struck with the flowers along our way, though we rush so fast! Just now we passed a brook edged with golden senecio, do you know it? growing just like purple asters, only bright gold, in cluster; blue iris grows with it. The meadow-rue is in lovely mist all over the low places. We pass so many kinds of loosestrife, I'm going to set them down, "for fun," as Sarah Jewett would say, as I see them: daisies, St. John's wort (blooming), toad-flax, white spiræa, princes' feather, roses, buttercups, white early aster, mustard, tansy, milkweed, yarrow, clover, fireweed (rosy purple), arethusa, rudbeckia, wild parsley, scarlet wood lilies, oh, so superb! arrow-head (white) cymbidium, morning-glory, and golden gorse (only a rare glimpse of this), white elder clusters, pink meadow-sweet, gold mullein spikes, pale primrose, blue-eyed grass (now we run into the rain! Oh, I hope your hillside has it!), water lilies (white and yellow), laurel, thistle, blackberry (still blooming), Gill-go-over-the-ground, and crowfoot; going through a wood, a glimpse of white azalea. What a wilderness of bloom! And now we near Greenland, and it doesn't seem five minutes since we ran out of the dark station at Beverly.* And here is pink germander! Dear, let me hear from you soon. I had such a happy time with you!

Notes

Greenland ... Beverly: Thaxter is traveling toward Portsmouth, NH. Beverly, MA and Greenland, NH are along the route between Boston and Portsmouth.

This extract from a letter appears in *Letters of Celia Thaxter* Edited by her friends, A. F. [Annie Fields] and R. L. [Rose Lamb], The Riverside Press, H. O. Houghton, & Co, Cambridge, Mass. 1895.

Georgina Halliburton to Sarah Orne Jewett

Friday morning

Oct. 8th 1881*

My own darling little gell

I hope you did not feel very tired after the pleasant little lunch of Wednesday and it wont be very long now darling before you come to me. I hope it will be by Wednesday. By the way when you were in at Proctors* the other day [did'nt *so spelled*] you forget to say anything about those pens. I think he must have them as I sent the sample to him last

[*Page 2*]

Saturday. I never thought of them until yesterday. If you want me to do anything about them I shall be in town Monday afternoon and could see about them. If you are going to be in town any day and want to see me, all you have to do is to send me word and I shall be there.

My own dear darling I do love you so much and I think that no one would wonder at my

affection for you if it was known what a constant source of comfort

[*Page 3*]

and delight you have always been to me, a great deal of real strength comes from a faith in a friendship that has never faltered, and darling when I think of the depth and meaning of our love for one another it makes all life a very different thing — the tragic side of loneliness and worry will never be wholly known to us as long as we have each other.

Our quadruped is quite ill so I am afraid that John* and I will

[*Page 4*]

have to forego the pleasure of driving over to see you — After we go in town Mrs. Atkinson and Mary Clark* are coming to spend the winter with mother and I think she will find it very pleasant.

Good bye my own dear darling for the present and you know that I love you more and more and am always your own

Wags*

This card came for you yesterday — I had a nice letter from Mary* on Wednesday afternoon and the [walk *?*] was most satisfactory.

[*Included in this letter is a page with a fair copy of this poem, presumably sent by "Mary."*]

A Sonnet
I saw at even mid the starry train
One that made brighter the celestial main.
So gloriously fair it was to me,
So full of light, and love, and mystery.
Beloved, fancy said, the star was thee.
Ah me! to look upon yet ne'er attain
Mingled my rapture with increase of pain:
But as entranced I softly breathed thy name
It cleft the dazzling firmament: it came
As if at my fond call across the night,
Gleamed, and was lost, this meteor bright.
So did'st thou come to me and so depart:
Yet love whate'er betide, where'er Thou art
Thy light enshrined is within my heart.
Sam'l Adams Drake*
——— 1881.

Notes

1881: Halliburton's date is difficult to read. The first transcriber for the Maine Women's Writers Collection reads it as 1880, but also reads the date of the Drake poem copy as 1881. As the Drake poem date is clearly written, it seems likely that the letter, too, is dated 1881.

Proctors: Presumably, this was a Boston area business, but no information about it has yet been discovered.

John: The identity of this person is not yet known.

Mrs. Atkinson and Mary Clark: These persons have not yet been identified.

Wags: Elizabeth Silverthorne, in *Sarah Orne Jewett*, notes that "Wags" was a nickname for Halliburton (p. 107).

Mary: The identity of this Mary is difficult to determine.

Drake: Samuel Adams Drake (1833-1905) was an American journalist and author.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection MWWC0196_02_00_019_01.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Nancy Manning (Mrs. Henry Oscar) Houghton

[*Letterhead constructed of SOJ initials superimposed on each other; the town and date appear to the right of the letterhead*]

South - Berwick

October 21st 1881

Dear Mrs. Houghton

If these verses will serve your purpose, I shall be very glad for you to use them — but if there are too many or you find fault [*deleted word*] do not hesitate to return "Miss Polly"* to her author

[*Page 2*]

and friend — I have a great interest in the Fair and thank you for asking me to do something for it.

Yours sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Miss Polly: Which poem Jewett refers to is not yet known. The most likely candidate from among her published poems is "Only a Doll" (1878).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Small Library, University of Virginia, Special Collections MSS 6218, Sarah Orne Jewett Papers.

Celia Thaxter to Sarah Orne Jewett

Kittery Point. Oct 23rd

(81

My darling owlet:*

Your dear book* came last night — I put ^it^ into Mr Thaxter's hands to read straight off — I know how I shall love it & I thank you thousand, thousand times!

How do you do? Are you better dear? I hope & trust so! That woman I enjoyed the day you were at 148,* (never appeared) on the [ocean again *?*]! Last Wednesday I brought down a woman from Prince Edward's island, & her child, a boy of six, — I think they'll stay put. Heavens! I hope so!

[*Page 2*]

I have had enough of general house work all alone — the gods preserve me!

Shall you not come down again? I hope so with all my heart. Do send me a word & tell me how you are — This is only a word to take my love to you, you dearest.

Your Sandpiper

Notes

owlet: Owlet and Sandpiper are nicknames for Jewett that Thaxter used also with Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

book: In 1881, Jewett probably has sent Thaxter a copy of her story and sketch collection, *Country By-Ways*.

148: The Boston address on Charles Street of Annie Adams Fields. Key to Correspondents.

At this time in 1881, Thaxter was having difficulty finding a household helper. The woman from Prince Edward's Island probably is Annie Colman, mentioned in other letters to Jewett and Fields around this time.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. MS Am 1743, Jewett, Sarah Orne, 1849-1909. Additional Correspondence Series: IV. 2 letters to Sarah Orne Jewett from various correspondents, (102) Box 2.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Kittery Point. Oct 23rd (81

Annie dearest: your letter came last night — you must not be so wretched, sweet, dear love — Do not, do not! You quote, "all my friends" — darling. Set down something to my strong way of putting things, it is one of my many faults — I do not know all your friends — But you, yourself, are you not conscious of putting your nearest somehow away from you? And those I know, who all love you truly & dearly do feel it too, sometimes. But it is not such a hopeless, miserable, despairing state of things, oh my dear, my dear! Do not go through the desert, turn your steps to the green palms, there is nothing

[*Page 2*]

but love can save us & love waits for you every where — Dont shut it out because you have lost the greatest love on [earth *corrected*], poor child, poor darling — Of all things on earth don't shut yourself away, throw bridges over your moat & let love come to you or you will die a thousand deaths of silence & sorrow & despair. The darkest hour comes just before the day.* Do not give up your work — what will become of you without it? O I wish I could get to you & put my arms round you & comfort you & save you from the silence & the emptiness & try at least to cheer you. Sometimes when I have suffered

[*Page 3*]

utter misery I have said as you say here, "God deals with me, I must bear it — He knows —" I know what heroism it takes — how sad in heart, how broken in spirit, how humble & like a sorrowful child one becomes when ~~they~~ ^one^ can recognise this — "God deals with me" — God will bless you, my sweet Annie, & lift you up & comfort you — That you have had all this to bear through me is a dreadful thought to me, & how it all came about I hardly know. I am infinitely sad to think of it, I can only blame myself bitterly — but after all, if I had behaved differently I should have hidden in my heart a reluctance to go back to you, & now I cannot wait, I so deeply desire to be near you, & I love you better than ever before, my precious one, my darling.

[*No signature*]

Notes

before the day: This idea is attributed to Thomas Fuller (1608-1661), *A Pisgah-Sight of Palestine* (1650), p. 206.

deals with me: This phrase appears often in theological and devotional writing, with varying meanings in different contexts. Though it appears in quotation marks, it appears not to be part of a proverbial quotation that would specify its meaning here.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields,

1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 1 (148-173).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

25th Oct. (81

Dear heart, dear heart! I stop in the midst of my early morning rush, to say one word, hoping there may be a chance to send toward the Post office some time today — Did you think anything more of the seamstress of whom I spoke to you, that young Mrs Edward Osgood* (377 Marlboro St)* had had to work for her, who was willing to go anywhere & do anything, so I understood, to get work? And Mrs O. liked her, & was trying to find some body's need that might meet hers. How are you, precious darling, I wonder, this dark chill morning? The surf tumbles here on the beach — it seems a senseless clamor — "the moaning of the mindless wind" as Mr Whittier* has it, is loud in the ponderous old elm{.}

[*Page 2*]

——

So many things to do! — I write 3 minutes & have to rush for some thing or some body the livelong time. The woman* I brought I hardly dare to say seems better than I dared to expect — She is certainly what we Yankees call "smart", very willing & anxious to do every thing, engages to stay all winter, at least, & is very thankful for a home for herself & her boy — "Put not your trust in appearances" I say to myself all the time, & "blessed are they that expect nothing," but still hope does revive a little in my breast.

[*Page 3*]

Roland* is still at home with his wounded leg & will not get away the Dr says till next Saturday, at least. Mr Casean* came here last week — he said Ellie Hunt* was to be married & go & live in Hungary — Doesn't it seem strange? And Mina* is really going to live with Miss Howes & Mrs Cabot* — I had a letter from her yesterday to say so — I am glad for ~~both~~ them & ^for^ her. Her sister Annie, of whom I told you, ill of nervous prostration, this strong, active, tranquil-minded Norwegian girl, gets worse & worse & they dont know

[*Page 4*]

what to do with her, nor does she with herself know what to do. She sits for hours weeping bitterly for nothing, or vacantly staring on the floor with her [chin *corrected*] in her hand & her elbow on her knee.

My dearest one, I hope to hear from you today, & that you are better & brighter — every moment I think of you: time will soon glide away & I ^shall^ see your dear beautiful face again, & be in your lovely presence, I hope & trust — Mrs T. & L. L.* have not yet engaged any rooms — I hope [*deleted letters*] that some will be found soon.

Heaven bless you, darling. Do let me have a word every day — Tell me how you are

Your loving C

Notes

Mrs Edward Osgood: Edward Louis Osgood (1843-1911) married Hannah Thwing Draper (1853-1929) in January 1881 and moved into their home at 377 Marlborough Street in Boston. Edward Osgood was the brother of the publisher James R. Osgood. Key to Correspondents.

Marlboro St: In the left margin next to this address, Thaxter has written: "Truly I cant remember if the No. is 377 or 237! but I think 377."

"mindless wind" ... Mr Whittier: For John Greenleaf Whittier, Key to Correspondents. Thaxter seems to misremember his famous poem, "Snowbound," in which these lines appear:

> A solitude made more intense
> By dreary-voicëd elements,
> The shrieking of the mindless wind,
> The moaning tree-boughs swaying blind,
> And on the glass the unmeaning beat
> Of ghostly finger-tips of sleet.

the woman: In her letter to Fields of 17 September 1881.Thaxter describes Marcella McDonald, the Irish-born helper who seems very promising. However, she seems later to have hired a replacement, Annie Colman, whom she praises in a letter to Fields of 22 November. To which she refers here is uncertain.

Roland: Thaxter youngest son. His leg remains a problem until he has surgery in November 1882.

Mr Casean: This transcription is uncertain. It may read "Caseau," for example. In any case, this person has not yet been identified.

Ellie Hunt: Elinor Hunt (1858-1941) was a daughter of Thaxter's mentor, American artist William Morris Hunt (1824-1879). She married the Hungarian-born Kurt Diederich.

Mina: Mina Berntsen is mentioned often in *Letters of Celia Thaxter* (1895). See also Norma Mandel, *Beyond the Garden Gate* pp. 80-3. Mandel says that Mina Berntsen was the

daughter of Ben Berntsen. She explains that several members of this family suffered from mental illness.

Miss Howes & Mrs Cabot: Susan Burley Howes Cabot was the widow of a former mayor of Salem, MA. Her sister was Elizabeth Howes (1827-1893). Key to Correspondents.

Mrs T. & L. L.: Mrs. T is Lucy Thaxter Titcomb (1818-1908), Thaxter's sister-in-law.

While the second pair of initials appears to be "L.L.," it is possible and seems more likely that Thaxter intended "L.T." for her husband, Levi Thaxter. He and his sister at this time usually rented rooms in Boston during the winter.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 1 (148-173).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Eben Norton Horsford

South-Berwick

27 October 1881

Dear Prof. Horsford

Thank you very much for your kind letter and for the little book which I shall enjoy reading very much, also. It is odd that only two or three days ago I was wishing that I knew something more than I do about that good queen.*

— I think we are much more surprised by the

[*Page 2*]

little things that 'happen' to us at just the right time than at the great things!

— I thought of you at the time I heard of Mr. Durant's* death, for I knew you were very fond of him. It is very hard to get on without the people whom one has learned to depend upon — and I think one feels such a loss more and more. You get used to doing without a person

[*Page 3*]

in the old ways, perhaps, after a while — but there are always new questions coming up when [you *corrected*] are sure that the friend who is gone could have given the best and wisest help — I did not know Mr. Durant except in the most casual way ——

I am rejoiced to hear something of your household. I was lucky enough to meet Mrs. Wyman* at the mountains and we

[*Page 4*]

talked a great deal about you all. I am in a great hurry to see her again — it was a great pleasure to me, to meet her.

My love to dear Sam and to Trofart, and the two new dogs Brownie and Roger* send their compliments. Brownie has been one of us for some months and Mrs. Dr. Oliver is 'fetching me up' a collie puppy whose name is Sandy: but one day I saw this red setter whose eyes

[*Page 5*]

are enough to win any heart and I bought him and named him Roger, and I love him already almost as much as I did old Joe. My mother is not over-fond of bow-wows, and I dont know whether she will like to have three in the house of an evening for these two big fellows seem to cover half the parlour floor already!

I am glad that you

[*Page 6*]

like Country By-ways.* I think in some ways it is far better than any thing I have done, but I never shall really be so fond of any thing as of Deephaven. I have associations with that that I couldn't have with another book —

I have been very busy all summer though I have been off several

[*Page 7*]

times for a week or so. — Yes — I hope to be in Boston later in the season — and don't I know where the door-key is hidden at 27 Craigie St? ——

With much love to you and to Mrs. Horsford and the 'little gells' as Mrs. Poyser* would call them

Yours always sincerely

Sarah O. Jewett

Notes

Durant's: John W. Willoughby notes: "This letter refers to several mutual acquaintances. Henry Fowle Durant [1822-1881] was the first President of Wellesley College; he died on October 3, 1881. Horsford knew Durant well, was one of Wellesley's founders, and served on the college's governing board. Elizabeth Aspinwall Pulsifer Wyman, the wife of the Horsford family physician, was the daughter of a shipmaster, an occupation of Sarah Orne Jewett's ancestors. Sam and Trofart were the Horsford dogs, the latter receiving his Norse name as a result of Horsford's involvement in the excavation of the Viking Godstow ship. See Captain Magnus Anderson, 'Norway and the Vikings,' *National Geographic* 5 (1894) 132-6." [

See also Horsford's *The Discovery of America by Northmen* (1888).]

Susan Lawrence Mason Oliver was the wife of a Boston physician, hymnologist, author, and local historian.

good queen: Which little book on a good queen Professor Horsford sent to Jewett is not known.

Brownie ... Roger: Both were Jewett family dogs, following the death of Old Joe, and it appears that Sandy the collie soon will join the family. See "Sarah Orne Jewett's Dog" (1889).

Country By-Ways: Sarah Orne Jewett's third book for adults was published in October, 1881. Her first novel was *Deephaven* (1877).

27 Craigie St.: Willoughby says that "the Horsfords lived at 27 Craigie Street [in Cambridge, MA], a few doors from the Longfellows." See Mary Melvin Petronella, *Victorian Boston Today: Twelve Walking Tours* (225).

Mrs. Poyser: Mrs. Poyser is a character in George Eliot's *Adam Bede* (1859).

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Fales Library and Special Collections, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University. Sylvester Manor Archive 1649-1996, MSS.208, IV: Horsford Family, Box 63: Folder 41. Jewett, Sarah Orne: Maine & Massachusetts.

This letter was published in John W. Willoughby, "Sarah Orne Jewett and Her Shelter Island: Letters of Sarah Orne Jewett and Annie Fields to Eben Norton Horsford," *Confrontation* (Long Island University) 8 (1974): 72-86. New transcription and notes.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Friday -

[*28 October 1881*]*

My poor, sweet dear, your letter breaks my heart. Do not, do not be so sad — alas, you were sad enough before — Do not sink this moat between yourself & all the world, — it is the worst thing you can do, — be not so proud, — nothing of mortal world can exist without human warmth & sympathy. Stupid I was & blind, to have hurt you so, but I could not see it was a mere surface ripple & not a growth out of dislike to me, that so hurt me. My poor darling! why could I not have said, "Something troubles my friend, something has disturbed her, — let me have faith to believe it is not I & wait till she is her sweet self once more". Heavens!

[*Page 2*]

Something is the matter with us all — is any body perfect? If we cant bear with each other there's no use in living. O dont, dont grieve so bitterly! O my sweet, I shall call you beautiful till my life's end, for you are, in body & in soul.

Ah, what can I say or do to comfort you! You stripped & bare like these autumn-stricken trees? O no, my darling, you are clothed with loveliness, & love waits everywhere for you, — only don't put it away — don't harden yourself with pride — It is a bitter storm, but it will pass & be all

[*Page 3*]

forgotten in peaceful summer warmth to come. You don't believe me — but it is true. I kiss your dear hands in deep, deep sorrow that I brought the storm. Have courage, you who have been so brave — nothing is so bad as it seems, not half the time.

No living creature dreams of all this pain — how astonished it would make any one who knows you — All so look up to you, you are such a power of good, of help, of cheer to so many needy souls, you yourself needing cheer most of all! Dear heart, sweet dear, sad heart, be comforted, — your own good deeds should have power to

[*Page 4*]

bless you & lift you into Gods peace, you precious one, you dearest & best — don't grieve, — be comforted!

[*no signature*]

Notes

28 October 1881: The Boston Public Library has assigned this date to this letter. This almost certainly is correct. The letter is one of several in which Thaxter holds herself responsible for deeply hurting Fields. See especially Thaxter to Fields of 23 October 1881. 28 October fell on a Friday in 1881.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 1 (148-173).

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Farm — Oct. 30 (81

Your letter came this morning, my dear darling Annie — I cannot bear to think of you there alone —, it was too pathetic, Aldrich* coming in & giving you that little ray of light — — alas — that life should be so hard — I am dark

enough this [morng *meaning* morning] — O, I wonder I wonder why, what for — What is it all — this maze of things — So hard I strive to do the things that seem right & necessary, — so hard fate strikes & strikes me till I am blind with tears. How [much *corrected*] harder does poverty make every thing —

— Heigho — well, [its *so spelled*] of no use to fret. I suppose we are each born to see how large a heartache we can carry & stand upright.

My woman* proves a most excellent, capable servant as far as I can judge from ten days experience — that is lifted off my shoulders at least, for the present —

2

O my dear, what have you this dark dark Sunday — is Mary there, or Ida, or Jessie* — who makes any sound of cheer for you within those four beautiful sad walls? O Who! Pray heaven some sweet soul is there beside yourself ——

You make me ache to the very center of my being when you say my words left you quite bare of any [comfort *corrected*]. My dear, you took them all [too *corrected*] gravely, you gave [too *corrected*] much weight to the whole matter — [Each *corrected from* each] of us has something our friends would like otherwise — least of all are the faults of disposition, little petulancies or sharp [words *or* moods *?*] are of so little consequence = [Why *corrected from* why], what would you do if somebody told you you had been "printed* in the paper as an atheist?! Oh, so many times my friends have, some of them, told me things about myself so much worse than having a cross mood now & then! And I have been told that my habit of exaggeration is such that the world in general could put very little dependence on what I said! Heaven grant it may be so & that I have exaggerated what I felt to exist among your

3

friends — That I have made you sadder is too much to think of — You were sad enough before, poor sweet child, poor lovely darling, dear white dove.

———————————

Surely there must be a great light coming to you soon. People cannot be so dark, so [heavy-hearted *corrected*] without a corresponding joy not far away — I am sure of it — in some way it will come to you & lift you up, my poor darling —

Take courage, sweet — It is dreadful to think of you so sad. You say "looking the same to others I look to myself full of blackness & distrust," but why should you look so? Heavens & earth, Annie, why? Dont see any thing of the kind when you look at yourself, but a dear, beautiful, much-tried & heroic soul, brush the cobwebs out of your sweet eyes & see what is there, in truth — & dont fancy such things about yourself, dear love — Ah I know what twenty six years were yours! Indeed they were enough to unfit any one to live in this rough world at all — a bit of heaven come down to earth — Few women ever had the like — what shelter! That was

[*Up the left margin of page 3*]

ones idea of Divine Providence indeed! = O Annie write to me every day — Would I could see you — I am your loving

C.

Notes

Aldrich: Thomas Bailey Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

woman: Probably this is Annie Colman, a woman from Prince Edward's Island who began working for Thaxter in October 1881.

Mary ... Ida ... Jessie: Mary may be Mary Greenwood Lodge. Jessie is Jessie Cochrane. For them, Key to Correspondents. Ida's identity is uncertain. Perhaps most likely is Ida Agassiz Higginson. Fields also was acquainted with the sisters, Ellen and Ida Mason. And Fields had a step-niece, Ida Gertrude Beal. See Higginson, Ellen Mason and Fields in Key to Correspondents.

"printed: It is not clear where Thaxter intended to close this quotation.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 1 (148-173).

Sarah Orne Jewett to Mary Rice Jewett

Friday evening

[*19 November 1881*]*

Dear Mary

I was glad to get your letter tonight and ^to^ make sure you are going to stay — but I am sorry you have taken such a cold — I wish you would take some quinine when you find one coming on — that is my remedy in such a case! I was sorry to write you such a letter this morning, but Carrie and Lizzie were standing waiting for it, and it was getting late. Ann* and I had a great

dusting out of the parlour this morning — She gave it

[*Page 2*]

a great sweeping but I sadly fear that between the bowwows' muddy footsteps and the dust out of the furnace we shall gain no credit for it — Uncle William* was in [tonight *corrected*] and gave his unqualified approval of your staying over until the first of the week — so I suppose nobody can cast a shadow on it now! He makes long calls and is very [plisant *so spelled*] —

Mrs. Clark* sent mother a beautiful bunch of Chrysanthemums by John* yesterday and I put them

[*Page 3*]

in a ginger pot and take great pleasure in them — I have been busy writing all the afternoon but I went out just before tea, and Annie Barker was just going in to Lizzie Parks's* and hailed me so I went in too and had a very pleasant little call. Sarah Lord* has been quite sick for a day or two with threatenings of pneumonia, so I went to inquire and found her better — I do hope that you and mother found Mrs. Claflin

[*Page 4*]

at home — Cora's* driving is to be thought of with anxiety but she is a much better whip than she used to be. [Ill *meaning* I'll] say that for her. If tomorrow is a day that dawns in golden splendor, I may go somewhere — The bowwows are a great deal of company. And I have been laughing at the good sense of "my beauty" — who seemed to understand that her arch-enemy was away and promptly stowed herself away for a little rest on the end of the back parlour sofa. That cat is too much for anything! Dont

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of page 1*]

bring home any candy, for there is some of that pink and white left now — and I really dont care about any more — and Carrie dont eat it — If you can without a great deal of trouble I wish you

[*Up the left margin of page 2*]

would bring me a pot of yellow Chrysanthemums to put in the window — or white ones either —

[*Up the left margin of page 3*]

I wish you had seen Mrs. Oliver*. She is so nice{.}

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

Saturday — All right this morning, but no news!

Notes

19 November 1881: An envelope associated with this letter in the MWWC folder was cancelled in South Berwick on this date and addressed to "Miss Jewett at 11 Lambert Ave, Roxbury, MA.

It is not yet known whom Mary Jewett and her mother would visit in Roxbury.

The dogs (bowwows) mentioned in this letter probably are named Brownie and Roger, who are mentioned in other letters of 1881. Mrs. Dr. Oliver is mentioned in a letter of 27 October 1881, as helping Jewett obtain a dog, though not either of these.

About Jewett's cats, see "Some Literary Cats" by Helen M. Winslow.

Carrie ... Lizzie ... Ann: Carrie Jewett Eastman. Lizzie and Ann apparently are Jewett household helpers. Typically, when Jewett refers to Lizzie, she means a frequent Jewett employee in South Berwick, Lizzie Pray. Key to Correspondents.

Uncle William: Probably this is William Durham Jewett, then residing next door to the Jewett sisters. But she could be referring to William Perry of Exeter, NH, her maternal uncle. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Clark: Presumably this is a South Berwick neighbor, not yet fully identified. A Mrs. Clark appears in an 1895 letter as a local purveyor of ducks.

John: John Tucker. Key to Correspondents.

Annie Barker ...Lizzie Parks's: Annie Barker was a South Berwick neighbor about whom rather little is known. In Mary Rice Jewett's 1892 letters to her sister while Sarah Orne Jewett was traveling in Europe, she reported regularly about Caroline March Barker (1833- 16 April 1892). According to Find a Grave, buried in the same cemetery in Rochester, NH, with Caroline Barker, is her first cousin, Anna Simpson Barker (1834-1921). It seems likely that she is the Annie Barker of this letter, then residing in South Berwick.

Lizzie Parks probably is Elizabeth Cutts Parks (1831-1918), mentioned in *The Placenames of South Berwick*, pp. 72, 82, a near Jewett neighbor. According to this account, her family helped to found the First Baptist Church of South Berwick in the early 19th century.

Sarah Lord: In *Sarah Orne Jewett* (1994) Paula Blanchard identifies Sarah Lord as a South Berwick neighbor (p. 45). The number of women named Sarah Lord who lived in or near South Berwick, ME during Jewett's lifetime is intimidating. Perhaps most likely are Sarah

Noble Lord (1804-1897) or her daughter, Sarah M. Lord (1842-1884), both of whom are buried in South Berwick, ME.

Mrs. Claflin: Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

Cora's: Cora Clark Rice. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Oliver: Possibly this is diarist Susan Lawrence Mason Oliver (1839-1926). She was the wife of a Boston physician, hymnologist, author, and local historian, Fitch Edward Oliver (1819-1892).

The manuscript of this letter is held by the University of New England Maine Women Writers Collection: Jewett Correspondence MWWC0196_02_00_077_01.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

Danvers

11. Mo 20. 1881

Dear Mrs Fields

I have never read a more entirely satisfactory memoir* than that which has been kindly sent to me. The only book of the kind which approaches it is "Charles Kingsley's Letters & Memories{.}"* The beautiful story of our dear friend's life is told just as he would wish it to be, delicately, tenderly, and yet

[*Page 2*]

with a fullness which satisfies. All his friends will thank thee; and the public at large will surely appreciate a book so crowded with great memories, in which all the rare and gifted of the last half century pass before the eyes of the reader.

The volume closes in language clothed in "the beauty of holiness."* The hope and trust without which life and its losses would be unbearable shines through the

[*Page 3*]

tears of a [great *?*] sorrow.

I am glad to think of thee in Charles Street* again, and engaged in thy old labor of love for the poor & suffering: and that I shall see some time when my health is strong enough to make a visit to our friends the Claflins.*

Always & gratefully thy friend

John G. Whittier

Notes

memoir: Whittier speaks of *James T. Fields*, Fields's memoir of her late husband, who died on 24 April 1881. Key to Correspondents.

"Charles Kingsley's Letters & Memories": *Charles Kingsley: His Letters and Memories of his Life* (1877) by Frances Eliza Grenfell Kingsley. Kinglsey (1819-1875) was an author and clergyman in the Church of England.

"the beauty of holiness": See the Bible, Psalms 96.

Charles Street: Fields's Boston address. Whittier refers to her work with the Associated Charities of Boston.

Claflins: See Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin in Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 70-4818.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Emma Harding Claflin Ellis

Saturday Morning

[*November 1881*]

[*Letterhead design of SOJ initials superimposed over each other*.]

Dear Mrs. Ellis

I wish to tell you that Mary* is here safe and sound and we are enjoying "the company" very much. I was very much provoked because I missed you yesterday

[*Page 2*]

for I came along just after Mrs. Rice had left you — I went over to Mrs. Fields's after breakfast, and the time went very fast, so I didn't get started from the Aldriches* until sometime after I planned and consequently I

[*Page 3*]

was a little late all the way through the morning! I just ran up to town to have a frock fitted, and to see about Country By-ways* for the last time — I wish I could have seen you and Mrs. Claflin —*

Mary* sends love and likewise Mary Ellis

[*Page 4*]

and I am your very affectionate

S. O. J.

Tell Mrs. Claflin there will be particulars next week! With covers on.

Notes

Mary is here safe: Emma Ellis's daughter, Mary. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Rice ... Mrs. Fields ... Aldriches: Cora Clark Rice, Annie Adams Fields, Thomas Bailey and Lilian Aldrich. Key to Correspondents.

Country By-ways: Jewett's collection of stories was deposited in the Library of Congress on 21 November 1881. Jewett probably refers to this book in the postscript as "particulars."

Mrs. Claflin. Mary Bucklin Davenport Claflin. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: In this sentence, the first Mary is Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in the Governor William and Mary Claflin Papers, GA-9, Box 4, Miscellaneous Folder J.

Elizabeth Cabot Cary Agassiz to Annie Adams Fields

[*21 November 1881*]*

My dear Mrs Fields

I would not answer your note till your book was in my hands, — it has this moment come and a mere glance at it tells me it will lead many of us back and make the past live again. As I take it in my hand I almost [envy you *?*] — it seems to me this book must bring a kind of peace & calmness to you

[*Page 2*]

as a last loving act accomplished{.} I hope it is so and I venture to tell you with what affectionate sympathy I have thought of you through all this sad & [changed *?*] darkness in your Manchester home.

With warm friendship

yours

E. C. Agassiz

Mondy

Nov 21st

Cambridge

Notes

1881: Fields has sent Agassiz a copy of her 1881 memoir of her husband, James T. Fields, who died 24 April 1881.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, James Thomas Fields papers mssFI 1-5637, Box 1.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Sunrise, Tuesday [morng *meaning* morning]

[*22 November 1881*]*

Last night your two letters, dear Annie, they gave me the greatest joy — Oh, I am so happy & glad about the book, & Dr. Holmes,* — may he be blessed to all time & eternity, who brought you comfort & joy, you sweetest — I long for the book & I long to see the letter & to see you still more — The time rushes away — a week will be gone so soon! I was so glad for every word in your letters — this morng I have only a moment, while breakfast is going on, to scribble one word for Karl to take to the Point,* two miles & a half's trudge! soon as he finishes his breakfast.

I am expecting the boys tomorrow, — who dares say they "expect" any thing in this world!

[*Page 2*]

I fear, while I write the word — I dare not plan or "expect" any thing, but hope that all will be well & they will appear. — I think I shall have to run back for Xmas, to make cheer for them — 'tis a fearful loneliness & mother love is good & warm & comforting. I think Annie Colman* will keep up a good heart, hope so at least.

Do you remember Tennyson's*

> "The deathless splendor of the morning star
> Shook in the steadfast blue"?

It shines over the sea before me — Good day, you beautiful one! — I am your most most loving

C.

Aunty Lunt at the De Normandies* is just wild to see your book — you know she was so fond of J. — she keeps his picture on the bureau close by her side all the time — I promised her as soon as I got to town I would send her one —

I am very anxious about Mrs De N.

Notes

22 November 1881: The Boston Public Library has assigned this date. Thaxter's reference to the appearance of Fields's biography of her husband places the letter with some certainty in November of 1881, when the book first appeared. 22 November fell on a Tuesday in 1881, but the letter seems to offer no clear evidence for which Tuesday is the right choice, though it seems likely that Thaxter refers to a family gathering for Thanksgiving, which fell on 24 November in 1881.

For other letters from Thaxter to Fields from this period, see *Letters of Celia Thaxter*. Those letters do not yet appear here because they seem marginally relevant to the relationship between Thaxter, Fields, and Sarah Orne Jewett, which is central to this collection. The letters I have chosen to place here help to reveal Fields's state of mind in the period between her husband's death and the establishment of her intimate friendship with Jewett.

the book, & Dr. Holmes: Annie Fields's memorial biography of her husband appeared in November 1881: *James T. Fields*, *Biographical Notes and Personal Sketches* (1881). Thaxter had read part of the manuscript. In the course of her work on the book, Fields consulted Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr. Key to Correspondents.

Karl ... the Point: Karl was Thaxter's oldest son, who usually resided with her. The "Point" is Kittery Point, ME. Later she mentions "the boys"; usually this would mean her brothers, Cedric and Oscar Laighton, who reside on Appledore in the Isles of the Shoals during the winter. Thaxter believes she will have to go to them at Christmas (Xmas) time.

Annie Colman: Colman began working for Thaxter in October 1881.

Tennyson's: British poet Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-1892) first published "A Dream of Fair Women" in 1833. Thaxter miss-remembers the lines:

> The maiden splendors of the morning star
> Shook in the steadfast blue.

Aunty Lunt ...De Normandies: Emily. F. de Normandie (1836-1916), and her husband, Unitarian minister James de Normandie (1836-1924). See *Men of Progress* p. 360.

Aunty Lunt probably is a relative of Mrs. De Normandie's grandmother, Ann Lunt Jones, but no more has yet been discovered about her identity.

J. is James T. Fields, deceased husband of Annie Fields. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Boston Public Library, Rare Books Department, Celia Thaxter correspondence with Annie Fields, 1869-1893, MS C.1.38 Box 2 Folder 1 (148-173).

Celia Laighton Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

Kittery, November 25, 1881.

Yesterday, while I was writing the last words of the letter I sent to you, I perceived smoke in the air, and looking up, Annie, the smoke was pouring up the *whole length of the crack* in the floor next the fireplace behind me!!! I ran upstairs to John's room;* he rushed down half dressed: the cellar was full of smoke! In a moment all the half-dressed men were on the scene. Wentworth fortunately had not yet finished his work at the barn and gone home, and with lightning speed every bit of fire was carried out into the snow, and he was dislodging the bricks in the hearth, and the smoke followed. Then it was water, water, and finally, after working about an hour, they thought it was out, and we sat down to breakfast. But I wasn't satisfied and I kept saying, "I expect every minute we shall break out into a light blaze." But they laughed at my fears. Suddenly we all became conscious of more smoke. They ran to the top of the house; the smoke was coming out in the attic!!! When I heard that I thought we were gone, and went quickly into my room and put my mother's little jewel treasures in my pocket, tried to think what I would like to save most, and swiftly rushed back. They had torn the whole brickwork out by that time, and what do you think! they found *the bricks had been laid on wooden beams!!!* and the beams cut down like bread before the axe, a mass of soft, hot charcoal! Just think of the man that built that chimney! Well, we got it out at last, and, thank God, it was only smoke, not yet flame, that had gone up through the partition to the attic. But it was the narrowest kind of an escape. All day long they were at work taking out the whole of the hearth, so that the cellar was laid bare to view, and it is to be laid, as it should have been at first, in solid stone. The mason who built it had the pleasure of spending his Thanksgiving digging out his wicked, shiftless work. It is the greatest wonder on earth that we are not in ashes this moment.

Notes

John: Thaxter's son, John, was born 1854; he married Mary Stoddard in 1887.

This extract from a letter appears in *Letters of Celia Thaxter* Edited by her friends, A. F. [Annie Fields] and R. L. [Rose Lamb], The Riverside Press, H. O. Houghton, & Co, Cambridge, Mass. 1895.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Wednesday

South - Berwick

[*November-December 1881*]*

Dear Mr. Aldrich

[*Deleted word*] Here is the little paper on Good Society which I hope will suit you. I like it myself and it was very good fun to write it.

— I send too, something I am pretty sure you will not want* for I am afraid I have not ~~done~~ ^said^ well enough a thing that is very clear to me — that "a drifting ship is sure to*

[*Page 2*]

come to harm" — It is badly copied too — but I am tired and if I dont send it with the other (which you ought to have as soon as possible) I shall not send it at all —

Yours sincerely

S. O. Jewett.

(It was delightful to see you and the Duchess* — and my sister* writes me what a good time she had with you yesterday —)

Notes

1881: Probably, Jewett refers to her essay, "Good Society Novels," which appeared anonymously in the *Atlantic's* "Contributors' Club" column in January 1882. If this is correct, then she almost certainly sent the piece to Aldrich late in 1881.

will not want: Jewett's lack of confidence in this second piece she sends Aldrich would seem to make it unlikely that it was published. However, Jewett did publish "The Plea of Insanity" in *The Congregationalist* in January of 1882. There she argues that Charles Guiteau, the assassin of President James Garfield in 1881, suffered from moral insanity brought on by a life "adrift" from moral rectitude. In that piece, she says: "A drifting ship must come to harm, and, as old Thomas Fuller says: 'The house of correction is the fittest place for those who are lame through their own laziness'."

sure to: Like most Jewett letters, this letter was written either on two folded sheets or on two sides of a single folded sheet. Normally, such a letter would begin on the right side of the first fold, continue on the left and right sides of the next folded page, and — if only 4 pages — end on the left fold of the first page.

In this letter, the left side of the 2nd page is blank. On the left side of the first page appear two items.

C. C.

Euni T. Fillie [*So lightly written as to be almost unreadable*. *The transcription is very uncertain, and possibly not in Jewett's hand.*]

Mr Aldrich [*possibly in Jewett's hand*]

Duchess: Among their close friends, the Aldriches were nicknamed the Duke and Duchess of Ponkapog. Key to Correspondents.

sister: Almost certainly Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Sarah Orne Jewett possibly to Harriet Waters Preston Fragment

[*Autumn 1881*]*

[*Page A*]

breakfasting alone and one was so apt to be sleepy too —

I have had a very great pleasure lately in knowing an old friend of father's — Mrs. Leland —* who has come to town to board for a while for the sake of old times — she used to be here when she was young. I think she is a very charming person and I have been often to see her — The other day she said 'my dear little girl' to me and it seemed funny enough, and very [sweet *corrected*] too — You need not doubt that my mind dwelt upon you! I must say good bye for I have been stealing time from writing

[*Page B*]

and afternoons are short enough at best — Besides I have stop by and by to go down to the church to the sewing-society [*1/3 of a wavy line to margin.*]

Did you think it was fast ^work^ to write that story in ten days? I was hardly ten hours in the first writing — and I am ashamed of it — I think it is a great deal better to write more slowly — only I cannot — such a thing as that, at any rate — for I am always thinking it out two or three pages ahead of where I am writing, and trying to catch up with myself — I think it tires anybody awfully too though it is fun at the time. I'll tell you one thing about "landlocked pools"{;}* you can look into them and see the world overhead and around — they're much more reliable! Ah! Let us think

[*Up the left margin and across the top margin of this A*]

well of ourselves and not give in to [Mr. *?*] F. Sanborne* — This may be the one thing he doesn't know — We will hold our heads as high as we can. Do you remember what Mrs Poyser* says? "If you make yourself dirt you must expect folks to walk over you." So lets be ambitious! Goodbye and God keep you

Yours always sincerely

S.O.J.

Notes

Autumn 1881: It is not certain that this letter was addressed to Preston, nor is there any strong foundation for this date. See notes below for the scant evidence supporting these guesses.

Leland: This person has not yet been identified.

"landlocked pools": In a letter to William Dean Howells of 1 December 1893, Jewett wrote:

> I remember years ago that Miss Preston read me something from a letter that spoke of some writers as being connected with thoughts of the sea and others as but land-locked pools and it often falls to my sad lot to remember it! but never to my envious lot. I am more proud every year of what you have done because I see every year more clearly how difficult it was and is.

Jewett's meditation, "River Driftwood," appeared in *Atlantic Monthly* in October 1881. At the end, she wrote:

> A harbor, even if it is a little harbor, is a good thing, since adventurers come into it as well as go out, and the life in it grows strong, because it takes something from the world, and has something to give in return. Not the sheltering shores of England, but the inhospitable low coasts of Africa and the dangerous islands of the southern seas, are left unvisited. One sees the likeness between a harborless heart and a harborless country, where no ships go and come; and since no treasure is carried away no treasure is brought in.

Sanborne: This person has not been identified, but the hint that he holds authority over writers suggests that he was a publisher, editor or reviewer.

Poyser: Mrs. Poyser is a character in British novelist George Eliot's (Mary Ann Evans (1819-1880) *Adam Bede* (1859). Jewett quotes her in a letter of 27 October 1881 to Eben Norton Horsford.

The manuscript of this fragment is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. bMS Am 1743 Box 7, Item 279.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

Wednesday morning

[*1880-1882*]*

[*Letterhead, formed with the letters SOJ superimposed on each other*]

Dear Duchess*

Thank you for your letter, and I think I will choose next week instead of the December week, so I accept your invitation to the dinner with pleasure — I am

[*Page 2*]

always in a hurry to see you — and then I am a little tired just now and I feel like having a good time!

My mother and Mary* have just come home from Boston — Mother was away for a week and I have

[*Page 3*]

done so much housekeeping and writing together that you would be astonished if I had time to give you the details!

Dear Duchess if it happens you would like the room you would give me for somebody else the night of the feast you can

[*Page 4*]

tell me, for you know I could easily dwell with another friend. I am always scuttling about for little visits you know.

Mr. Aldrich is the first poet who ever wrote a poem to me* and I treasure it accordingly. I am tempted to make sponge cakes without stopping the rest of the week and make him eat the driest first — I shall say nothing about the other sort

[*Cross written up the left margin and across the top half of page 1*]

of sponge cake yet, to him but I have some things I wish to read to you. May I send my trunk to 131 on Saturday to wait for me as I am going to stop on my way to you?

Mary sends you love.

Yours always

Sarah

[*Up the left margin of page 4*]

Thank you for sending Mr. James's* note —

Notes

1880-1882: These tentative dates are suggested by the beginning of Jewett's acquaintance with the Aldriches and the date of the first known poem to her, "Godspeed," written to her and Annie Adams Fields by John Greenleaf Whittier, to mark their first tour in Europe, in 1882. Of course, Jewett may mean that Aldrich's poem is the first addressed to her alone.

I have arbitrarily split the difference, and placed this with the letters of 1881.

Duchess: The Aldriches were affectionately known among their friends as the Duke and Duchess of Ponkapog. Key to Correspondents.

Mary: Mary Rice Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

poem to me: This poem has not yet been identified. Jewett may allude to Aldrich's *The Story of a Bad Boy* (1869) in which he writes humorously of a seller of dry sponge cake (pp. 207-11).

Mr. James's note: This is likely to refer to Henry James. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).

Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett

Sunday Evening.

[*November-December 1881*]*

Dear Sarah:

I have been on an Expedition to Emma's* this afternoon, & got caught in the rain, but it didn't matter for I took a big shawl & my rubber waterproof so we came home in triumph. I found it was going to rain, & so I was afraid the snows would all go if I waited until tomorrow, & my bones being still mindful of the shaking up I got Tuesday, I started off after dinner. It was excellent sleighing, & Baby was in high spirits, & Roggy* Bow wow got the better of us and went, and fairly jumped off his feet with delight. We ought to have come back for the Brown One but we were too lazy, so Rogers triumph was complete, and he behaved splendidly{.} The snow is very thin down by Emma's, & this rain will probably take it all off, so I am thankful we went.

Emma is still comfortable though she seemed to me rather weaker than last Tuesday

[*Page 2*]

though I may be mistaken.

I went to church this morning & to Sunday School, & had interesting particulars with Mrs Goodwin* about nothing. We have highly classical music now, that your eyes would open at. This morning they had for a voluntary {"}Consider the lilies of the field"* &c and the beginning was a queer little minor thing that fascinated me, & I wished I could hear it sung by really good voices{.} Mr Lewis* preached an excellent sermon{.} He really is doing splendidly now and the church is filling up again which is pleasant. I laughed and laughed at your utter defeat at the hands of the Congregationalist.* Constant dropping will wear away a stone, and the yearly letters seem to have proved too much for yours{.} Perhaps they will borrow a rooster of the Post, and announce your name in triumph. I hope they offered sufficient filthy lucre to make it an object.

Yesterday I went over to see Mrs Doe* for a few minutes, and drove over through

[*Page 3*]

the woods, & I never saw a more beautiful sight in my life, for the trees were filled with light snow, until the whole look of the place was changed. I wish you could have seen it. After dinner I asked out Lucia, & we drove round town for an hour, as the roads were hardly trodden enough to go any distance, especially as it was Princess to the fore. Susan & Caddie* dropped in for a short season, and Mary Neally burst in like a wild Indian with almost a war whoop, and asked <u>where</u> she could find Country By-ways* for she had tried everywhere <u>in town</u> vainly, & I mildly suggested that Mr Lane had them in Dover, or William Tompson would get one with pleasure. She was fresh from Charlotte's, & probably had seen hers, & thought perhaps we would go & do likewise* by her. There is a tea-less sewing society on Tuesday to finish a baby wardrobe for a parish barrel,* that is going to a minister's wife somewhere down in Maine{.} I am knitting some shirts, but cannot get

[*Page 4*]

them done by the time the barrel goes this week, so they will have to follow after. I also hope for sleighing so that I can do something to make her visit pleasant for her, but this rain is somewhat disheartening. Taddy thanks Mrs Fields* very much for the prospect of the hollyhocks, & you for trying to get things for her. She had a big panel & thought she would like to do the

hollyhocks, never supposing it would be difficult to get a good pattern, though the one Mrs. Palmer* had didn't quite please her. Charles Burleigh & Sarah Butler* were married the other day in Florida.

Mr. Plumer & Mrs. Burleigh are both going down very soon I hear, but it was just like those worthies to march off to the minister & get the thing done before their elders & betters got there. How ever, where little is given but little is required, & they haven't the brains of an infant mosquito between them, so it is no use to waste breath on that subject.

[*Page 5*]

This morning just after nine oclock I saw John M^{c}Guines* pass the window, & heard a furious rap on the end door, and as [On *?*] wasn't forthcoming no more was I, and he kept pounding [until *corrected*] [On — *?*] came down stairs at twenty minutes of ten to go to mass. He almost battered the door down, but I let him pound, & he berated ['On *?*] for keeping him standing there. Of course he wanted money, & she was fool enough to give it to him, but she went to mass in a most profane frame of mind judging from sundry ejaculations as she went through the entry. The phosphorus came all right but Mothers pain is not in the right place for that, being lower down on her right side, & coming from a little strain from coughing I guess. She is better every day, and will be all right soon if she does not take more cold. Last nights paper said that Mr. [Goddard *?*]* was improving so perhaps he will get well again{.}

Susie Jewett told me the other day that Aunt Susan got mad with her & told her she

[*Page 6*]

would leave her to her own reflections, & added that she pitied more than she [*unrecognized word*] her! Cannot you hear her say it. They must have an awful time with her. Did I tell you that I heard in a roundabout way that she had been at her old tricks again, with a fruit knife this time. None of the family have said anything so I haven't mentioned it. Uncle Wm* said he would get the check for you tomorrow. I forgot to ask him Friday & he was at the bank all yesterday morning but perhaps he will not bring it in time to send in this. Sister was very high in her mind last night 'count o' being well spoken of by Mrs Fields, considering it a great compliment. Perhaps it is a case ^though^ where it would be folly to be wise, so it may be lucky [for *?*] my good & regular standing in her opinion that I couldn't go up Tuesday & so spoil her first impressions. My love to her please, & to any other friend with whom you may fall in, I am

Yrs affly Mary R.J.

Notes

November-December 1881: Probably this letter was composed soon after the publication of *Country By-Ways* and near the beginning of the Jewett-Fields relationship, when Mary Jewett first became acquainted with Annie Adams Fields.

Emma's: The Jewetts had several acquaintances named Emma. It is not yet known which one this is.

Baby ... Roggy: Presumably Baby was a horse. Roger was a Jewett family dog. The "Brown One," named later probably was another dog named Brownie. Roger appears in the Jewett correspondence between 1881 and his death in 1889. See Mary Rice Jewett to Sarah Orne Jewett, 21 June 1889. Also named in this letter is another horse, Princess.

Goodwin: Probably this is Sophia Elizabeth Hayes Goodwin, who lived in Oldfields, at some distance from the Jewett house, near the Hamilton House. See Pirsig, *The Placenames of South Berwick*, p. 28 map and pp. 31-2.

lilies of the field: In "The Sermon on the Mount," Jesus reflects that the lilies of the field are clothed even though they do no work. See the Bible, Matthew 6:28-30.

It is difficult to be sure which musical setting Jewett heard. Perhaps the best known hymn based on this text was "The Lilies of the Field" with lyrics by British Anglican Bishop, Reginald Heber (1783-1826). Wikipedia.

Lewis: George Lothrop Lewis. Key to Correspondents.

Congregationalist: Jewett contributed stories and essays to *The Congregationalist* from 1882 through 1884. Her first piece for this newspaper appeared 11 January 1882, "The Plea of Insanity," and concerned the assassin of President James Garfield.

Susan ... Caddy: Caddy is Caroline Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents. Susan almost certainly is Susan Jameson Jewett (1857-1964), also called Susie.

Neally ...Country By-Ways: Jewett's collection of stories and sketches, *Country By-Ways* appeared in November 1881.

Mary Neally may be Mary Elizabeth Jewett Nealley (1817-1890). She was a daughter of Thomas Jewett, a great uncle. However, there were two other Mary Nealleys living in South Berwick at this time: Mary Jane Adams Nealley (1828-1896) and Mary Susan Thurell Nealley (1855-1917). Find a Grave.

Lane ... William Tompson: According to the Dover Public Library's "1997 Heritage Walking Tour," Edmund J. Lane (1802-1884) was a books and stationery dealer in Dover, NH. John Tompson and his son William operated a South Berwick book store. See "John G. Tompson" at the Old Berwick Historical Society web site and Find a Grave.

Charlotte's: Almost certainly Susie Jewett's step-mother, Charlotte T. Cross Jewett (1819-1903). Find a Grave.

likewise: Jewett echoes the words with which Jesus concludes the parable of the "Good Samaritan" in the Bible, Luke 10.

parish barrel: This seems to be a collection of dry goods and food collected by a church for charity.

Taddy ... Fields: Annie Adams Fields. Taddy is Caroline Jewett Eastman. Key to Correspondents.

Mrs. Palmer: This person has not yet been identified.

Charles Burleigh ... Sarah Butler ... Plumer: Piecing together the story of this family from internet sources produces little confidence of accuracy. Probably Charles Burleigh was the oldest son of John Holmes Burleigh (1822-1877) and Matilda Buffum Burleigh (1823-1911). He probably graduated from Dartmouth College and in 1882 married Sarah A. Butler of South Berwick. Both were descendants of prominent and wealthy South Berwick, ME, families. According to *Memoirs of Mrs. Millar Wilson, Gertrude Rollins Wilson* (1952), their marriage was not a happy one.

Wilson also says John Henry Plumer/Plumber (1829-1894), brother of Rev. Alexander Roberts Plumer (1827-1898), was Sarah Butler's grandfather.

In Wilson's account, Charles Burleigh seems the more wayward of the couple, and her account suggests that he may have been homosexual.

John M^{c}Guiness ... On: Presumably this story concerns a Jewett family resident Irish employee and her relative also residing in South Berwick. Jewett produces several versions of her name, and I remain puzzled about that.

Goddard: Martha LeBaron Goddard (1829-1888) was the compiler, along with Harriet Waters Preston, of *Sea and Shore: A Collection of Poems* (1874). She was married to the journalist Delano Alexander Goddard (1831- 11 January 1882), and they had no children.

Aunt Susan: Susie Jewett's mother was also named Susan Jameson Jewett (1788-1883).

Uncle Wm.: Probably this is William Durham Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library of Harvard University: Sarah Orne Jewett Correspondence Series: I. Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett MS Am 1743 (115) Jewett, Mary Rice, 1847-1930. 115 letters; 1885-1908 & [n.d.], 1885-1908.

This transcription is from a photocopy held by the Maine Women Writer's Collection, University of New England, Letters to Sarah Orne Jewett, 1875-1890, Box 2, Folder 100, Burton Trafton Jewett Research Collection.

John Greenleaf Whittier to Annie Adams Fields

[*Begin letterhead*]

Danvers, Mass.

[*End letterhead*]

12th Mo 18. 1881

Dear Mrs Fields

The telegram* so kindly sent, and signed by Celia Thaxter{,} Sarah Jewett & thyself reached me yesterday p.m. & made me glad. And later came thy flowers fresh & beautiful. Two dear old friends, [Dear. Fowler *so it appears*] of Danvers and Col. Browne* of Salem dined with me, and the pleasant day passed quietly and not unhappily.

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Tell Sarah Jewett that we shall look for her and Mr Drake* on Tuesday. With love to her & Mrs. Thaxter, I am always thy grateful friend.

John G. Whittier

It was most kind in thee to send the flowers, & my heart thanks thee more than my pen can.* These milestones at my age are rather serious things, and happy is he, who, in passing them ^sees them^ as I have ~~see~~ ^done^ ^~~them~~^ [associated *?*] with flowers, — symbols & prophecies of the immortality of love & friendship.

Notes

telegram: Whittier's birthday was 17 December.

Like many letters in this collection, this was composed on a single sheet, folded top to bottom and turned left 90 degrees. The text appears on the right half of side 1 and on the left half of side 2. In this letter, the other two half-sides are blank, except that on the left half of

side 1 the numeral 7 appears as in the illustration below:

Left half of side 1, before the page is rotated 90 degrees to compose the text. The folded sheet appears to have been folded again in thirds, as represented by the inner vertical lines, and the numeral appears in the top center of the middle fold.

Celia Thaxter ... Sarah Jewett: Key to Correspondents.

Fowler ... Danvers and Col. Browne ... Salem: Fowler is very likely, Whittier's correspondent, the author, Harriet Putnam Fowler (1842-1901), a temperance, health and diet reformer. The identity of Colonel Browne of Salem is not yet known.

Sarah Jewett ... Mr. Drake: For Sarah Orne Jewett and Alexander Wilson Drake, Key to Correspondents. While it is not certain that A. W. Drake is the person to whom Whittier refers, this seems likely.

pen can: At the beginning of this postscript is a penciled X.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, in the James T. Fields collection: mss FI 70-4815.

Celia Thaxter to Annie Adams Fields

K. P. Dec. 27th (81*

How kind you are, dear Annie, to keep forwarding all these things to me, which I am so glad to get! I am delighted you had a happy xmas making light in dark places & so lightening your own heavy heart.* I had a very sorrowful xmas, for there came again another bill that had been [turning *?*] up all summer which my poor daft boy* had contracted & a kind of despair came over me, a hopelessness of any end of it all. And when I spoke to him about it he fell into such a dreadful mood of wrath & despair

[*Page 2*]

that I knew not what to do.

Alas — I dare not think of what may, what must be the end of all this.

I am glad the dear owl* is with you & I wish she would stay forever — happy is the creature who has her near —

It is a terrible night — we sit by the fire of wreck-wood & fear for disasters upon this roaring sea — such a tumult of winds & waters. —— it is awful to listen to —

Sometimes I am half inclined to stay here the rest of the winter & wish I had not left my tools behind me — — You do not say anything of Lisa's Sister,* so I hope she is better — I want to send a word to the dear owl so good night, Annie dearest, from your loving

[*Initials* CT *superimposed*].

Notes

81: Thaxter writes from Kittery Point, ME.

heavy heart: Fields continues in mourning after the death of her husband, James T. Fields, the previous April.

daft boy: Thaxter refers to her disabled eldest son, Karl, who lived with her throughout her life..

dear owl: One of Thaxter's nicknames for Sarah Orne Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

Lisa's Sister: Presumably, Thaxter refers to Field's Irish-born servant, Lisa or Liza. She could refer to Fields's sister, Elizabeth (called Lissie), but Thaxter's language is odd if that was her intent. Field's second sisters were Sarah and Louisa. Key to Correspondents.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Huntington Library, San Marino California: James Thomas Fields Papers and Addenda (1767-1914), mss FI 1-5637, Box 62 FI 4213.

Annie Adams Fields to Eben Norton Horsford

148 Charles St. Boston.

Dec. 30th 1881

Dear Professor Horsford:

Both Mifs Jewett* and* I were sorry you should have come in vain to find us. She sends you her love and when she returns ~~to~~* ^from^ Newport where she is passing a few days she will herself write you.

Meantime let me thank you for the beautiful little book you left for me and especially for your constant remembrance.

Believe me, most gratefully and faithfully yours

Annie Fields.

Notes

Mifs Jewett: Sarah Orne Jewett. Key to Correspondents.

and: Fields often writes "a" for "and." I have rendered all of these as "and." She also

presents superscript with dots beneath, as if a quotation mark were written under the letters. I have chosen to render this as underlining.

~~to~~: It is not perfectly clear that Fields has deleted this word, but that would seem to have been her intention.

The manuscript of the letter is held by the Fales Library and Special Collections, Elmer Holmes Bobst Library, New York University. Sylvester Manor Archive 1649-1996, MSS.208, IV: Horsford Family, Box 59: Folder 35. Fields, Annie Adams: Connecticut, Maine & Massachusetts.

Sarah Orne Jewett to Lilian Woodman Aldrich

[*Boston — 1881*]*

Dearest dear Duchess*

You are kinder and thoughtfuller than ever but I have sent a note already to Miss Booth* to say that we thank her so much, but that I am afraid I shall [*deleted word*] be too tired — So I think it had better be [decided *corrected*] in that way. Cora* sends her love and thanks you

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and so do I. I hope you have not been thinking about it — my dear Lily!

Yours always

Sarah —

Notes

1881: This bracketed note is in another hand, presumably that of a Houghton archivist. There is no rationale for this information. One reason for skepticism is that Jewett speaks of "we," suggesting that she includes Annie Adams Fields in the invitation she declines; this would make it likely the letter comes from 1883 or later. However her mentioning Cora Lee Clark Rice (See Key to Correspondents) suggests that Jewett is staying with Cora in Boston, and that Cora was included in the invitation. Then 1881 would seem a reasonable possibility. In any case, if Miss Booth is correctly identified, the letter must have been composed before May 1885.

Duchess: Among their close friends, the Aldriches were nicknamed the Duke and Duchess of Ponkapog. Key to Correspondents.

Miss Booth: It is likely that this is Edwina Booth (1861-1938), daughter of the American actor, Edwin Booth (1833-1893) and niece of the presidential assassin, John Wilkes Booth (1838-1865). Edwina Booth married Ignatius Grossman in May 1885.

The manuscript of this letter is held by the Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Thomas Baily Aldrich Papers, 119 letters of Thomas Bailey and Lilian Woodman Aldrich, 1837-1926. MS Am 1429 (117).